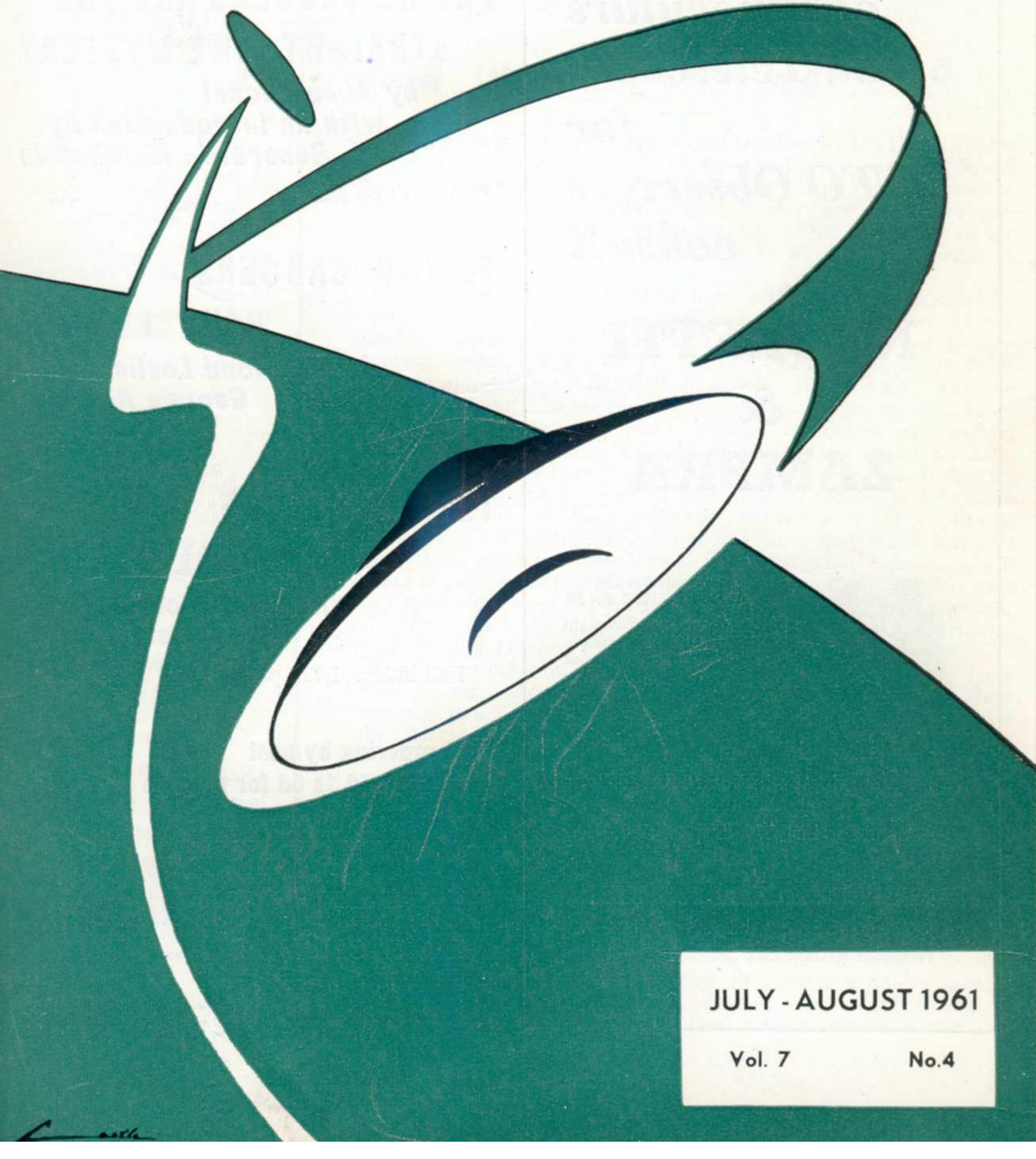
FLYING SAUCER REVIEW



JULY - AUGUST 1961

Vol. 7 No.4

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SPACE

Edited by
Waveney Girvan

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

INCORPORATING FLYING SAUCER NEWS

Vol. 7 No. 4 JULY-AUGUST 1961

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A war of the worlds?

IN this issue we print the conclusions reached by Dr. Olavo Fontes following his discovery of an intensive orthotenic survey of Brazil in May, 1960. Dr. Fontes ventures a prophecy that the lines of activity as mapped by him indicate a military reconnaissance preparatory to a mass invasion of his country. What the nature or the purpose of the invasion will prove to be he is, of course, unable to forecast.

Other predictions of this nature have in the past been falsified by the passage of time and other intensive surveys conducted by the saucers in various parts of the world have not so far led to any dramatic sequel. When the bizarre visitations in France in 1954, which stimulated Aimé Michel's discovery of orthoteny and the writing of *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery,* came to an end the visitors apparently lost interest in that country and moved their attentions elsewhere. First Papua and then, more recently, Russia seem to have been two notable areas of attraction. Unfortunately, Russia is not far enough advanced in our subject to have produced either a Michel or a Fontes, but it would not surprise us to learn that the pattern discovered in France and Brazil was also discernible over the Soviet Union. However, what happens inside Russia is always wrapped in secrecy and it would be better to base our conclusions—and our predictions if we are rash enough to venture them—upon the happenings in the western world, particularly where the independent test of orthoteny can be applied.

The first conclusion that we can draw is that the visitors have shown an intense curiosity towards conditions on this earth. Their form was either human or near-human. Occasionally, as in France when Marius Dewilde claimed that he had met two creatures from outer space, their appearance was so weird that the witness suffered from shock—this fact, incidentally, served as a corroboration of the reality of his experience. There have been well attested accounts, too, of the visitors displaying a geological interest in the country they were surveying: soil samples have been taken in France and America, and here may be the solution to the mystery of the unexplained holes in the ground which have been reported from many places during the last few years. Well attested, too, have been the accounts of cars being followed and engines stopped by some mysterious ray: occasionally even human beings (Marius Dewilde among them) have been paralysed by the same or a similar agency. While it is not claimed that these actions are necessarily hostile, it is evidence that the visitors are at least armed with some defensive

weapon. There has been no evidence, as far as we can recall, that there have been any deliberate attacks upon the inhabitants of the earth.

Dr. Fontes gives some sound reasons for claiming that the survey of Brazil is a military reconnaissance. By a coincidence, one of our readers has suggested that there is other evidence of a warlike purpose and he instances the formation flights, the uniform that is worn by many of the pilots and the explosions in the sky and the disintegration of space ships which have been witnessed on several occasions. All this would tend to support the theory that a war is being waged in space, a war that is either interplanetary or even inter-galactic: and that we are the neutral and half-conscious spectators of an empyrean conflict being fought by races totally unknown to us.

If this theory is sound, then we must resemble the denizens of a jungle through which a major campaign is being waged. Many of us, living beyond the range of the fighting, are totally unaware of what is afoot, but a few of us caught on the fringes of battle have glimpses of weirdly dressed combatants engaged upon their mysterious struggle. We may hasten to tell our fellows of what we have seen, but when the excited chatter has died down and the battle has either been decided or has moved on, we are disbelieved and our testimony is finally forgotten. This is almost exactly what happens with our own testimony of flying saucers, their flights, their landings and their exploration of the jungle in which we live.

What then could be the purpose of the survey of Brazil and other countries? We can, perhaps, draw a parallel from the experience of the Second World War. Many neutral countries were invaded by one or other of the belligerent powers merely in an attempt to forestall a real or imagined outflanking movement by the enemy. As a precautionary measure, no doubt, many of these neutral countries were "surveyed" by both sides even before the outbreak of hostilities. Only in case of need did the survey culminate in actual invasion. If our theory holds, then here we have, at last, the explanation of why the saucer pilots are so keenly interested in observing our earth, its soil, and its military installations while remaining almost completely indifferent to our persons: it is only when we approach them that any action results and then it is usually evasive, though occasionally we have to be stopped in our tracks when we come too near. The jungle is of great importance, but the monkeys can be left to their chatter.

What we do not know at the present time is whether these orthotenic surveys are conducted on a national or an international scale. Michel and Fontes, in their respective countries, have naturally been unable to enlarge their maps so as to include neighbouring territories, though there is a hint in *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery* that perhaps England was being surveyed at the same time as France. On October 15, 1954, there was a report of a landing at Southend, which lies on one of Michel's straight lines extended from France. We may have to wait until our subject is taken more seriously, but it is important to discover whether our visitors are aware of our national boundaries and sovereignties. This might help us to learn whether the visitors are primarily interested in our planet or in its inhabitants.

The theory as we have stated it does not necessarily rule out all the other contact claims. A plurality of worlds can produce missionaries as well as warriors. Unfortunately, it would seem that the warriors have made the firmer footprints on our soil.

SCIENCE

Science is based on experiment and observation. It must know no fear, must have no dogmas, must create no "taboo" for itself. But contemporary science, by the mere fact of having cut itself sharply off from religion and "mysticism," i.e. having set up for itself a definite "taboo," has become an accidental and unreliable instrument of thought. The constant feeling of this "taboo" compels it to shut its eyes to a whole series of inexplicable and unintelligible phenomena, deprives it of wholeness and unity, and as a result brings it about that "we have no science but have sciences."

A New Model of the Universe

by P. D. Ouspensky.

VENUS AS AN ABODE OF LIFE

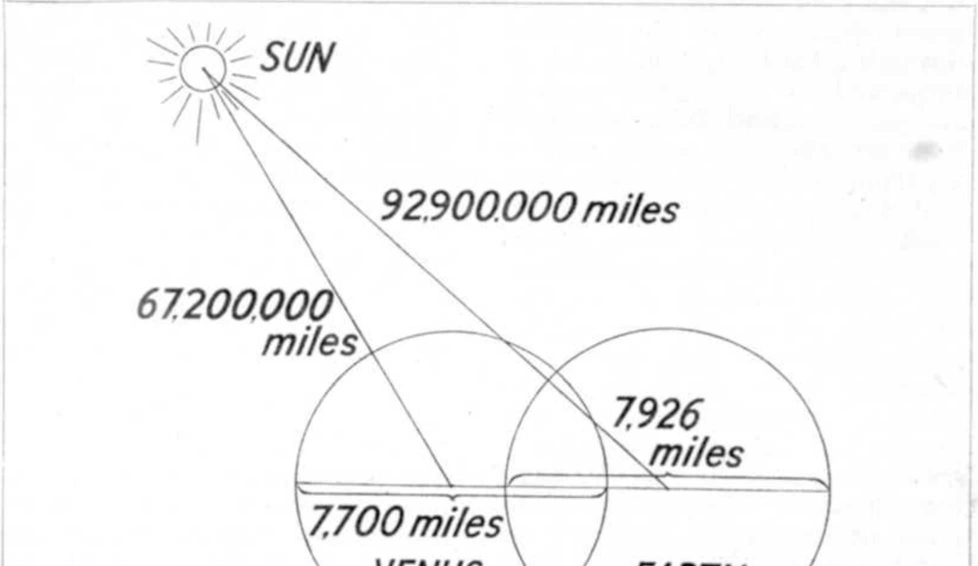
by V. A. Firsoff

IN the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries belief in the "plurality of inhabited worlds" was widespread and scientifically respectable. Herschel accepted life on the Moon as a matter of course and did not hesitate to people even the Sun. As knowledge increased, astronomers became more cautious; but in 1877, when the famous Italian observer Schiaparelli announced the presence of canal-like markings on Mars, there was a revival of interest in the possible existence of sentient beings on other planets, more particularly on Mars, though Venus is much more Earth-like.

The American enthusiast Percival Lowell spent a lifetime in the study of Mars and enmeshed the "Red Planet" in a thick network of canals. In his book *Mars as the Abode of Life* he drew a gripping picture of a "world athirst" where, by a tremendous irrigation system, a race of superlative engineers spread the meagre supply of water from the polar snows over the red deserts, creating oases of life. This was in 1909. Wells's *War of the Worlds* followed.

Today such ideas are out of favour. Few astronomers believe in intelligent life on Mars; many more doubt whether life exists there at all. In a recent work *La Vie dans l'Univers* (1958) two leading Soviet scientists, Oparin the biologist and Fessenkov the astronomer, concluded unequivocally that the Earth was the only habitable planet in the Solar System. In America there is a special Ozma project for seeking radio signals from distant worlds, but the targets are away among the stars; no menion is made of our neighbouring planets. Yet, early in 1960, the American Dr. W. M. Sinton found in the infra-red spectrum of the dark areas of Mars unmistakable absorptions due to the organic carbon-hydrogen bond which characterises substances such as proteins and carbohydrates.[1] These do not lie about in heaps on a lifeless globe; they are the stuff of life and form living tissues. To produce observable absorptions, they must be present in large quantities. The dark areas would then be no starveling growth of Lowell's "world athirst," but abundant thriving vegetation.

Life as we know it on the Earth is based on carbon as the chain-building chemical element and water as the vital solvent. It is essentially carbohydrate life. Carbon is present in the air as carbon dioxide gas, and water as vapour, both of which can be detected by spectroscope. If, therefore, they occur in the



Venus and the Earth compared.

atmosphere of another planet this is an indication that life may exist there. In the process of photosynthesis green plants use the energy of sunlight to extract carbon from carbon dioxide and to combine it with water to form carbohydrates—sugar and starch. From these other organic substances are derived. Photosynthesis also liberates oxygen, which is required for breathing.

Water cannot perform its function as the vital solvent unless it is liquid, so that if a planet is to be an "abode of life" the temperature of its surface must remain, at least for substantial periods, between freezing and boiling points. To satisfy this condition, the planet must be neither too close to the Sun nor too far from it, which practically limits the possibility to Mars and Venus. Carbon dioxide was found to exist on both—on Venus in overwhelming abundance — but their spectra revealed neither oxygen nor water. In 1947 Dr G. P. Kuiper detected a little water vapour at a low temperature above the polar caps of Mars—so little as to allow this cold, inhospitable world to sustain at best some hardy lichens. Venus, swathed in perpetual cloud, showed none.

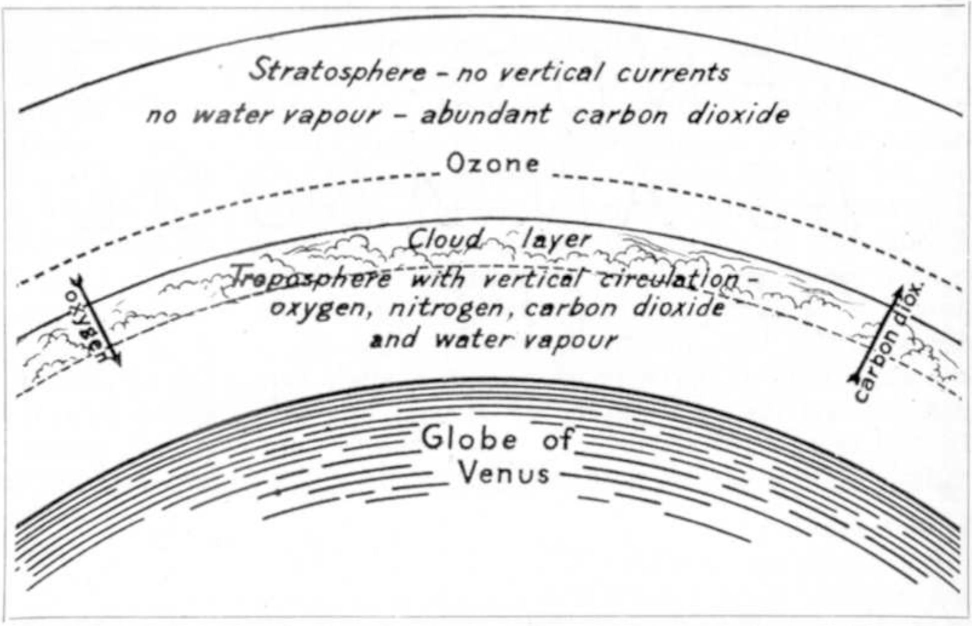


Diagram (not to scale) of globe, troposphere and stratosphere of Venus.

Detection difficult

Until recently all observations were made from the ground through a thick layer of air. As it contained abundant water vapour and oxygen and thus produced its own absorptions, they were superimposed on any similar ones that might originate in the spectrum of the planet under study. This made detection difficult; but existing methods of eliminating the effect of the Earth's atmosphere were then considered adequate. In theory, if the atmosphere of another planet had only one-thousandth of the oxygen content of ours this would have been unmistakably revealed; and none was apparent. Venus is so like the Earth that, if they were to change places, it would be difficult to tell them apart (see diagram); their surface gravities are almost identical, and Venus, being about three-quarters of the Earth's distance from the Sun, is not over-exposed to its rays. Yet the planet appeared to be a desert, devoid of life, where clouds of some outlandish composition were raised by fierce winds in an atmosphere of choking carbon dioxide.

This view was not generally accepted; in particular, the total absence of water seemed improbable. A blanket of clouds renders the surface and lower atmosphere of Venus to all intents and purposes inaccessible to eye and spectroscope alike. Above the clouds the temperatures are low: in fact, Sinton and Strong have found that Venus radiates as a body having an integrated temperature of minus 57°F. Water vapour would thus be frozen out of the atmosphere and become undetectable by spectroscope.

In November, 1959, the U.S. Navy and the Johns Hopkins University sent up a stratospheric balloon for the study of Venus. Infra-red spectrograms were obtained, and they proved that there was rather more water vapour above the clouds of the planet than above the corresponding high clouds over the British Isles. A desert indeed! There was plenty of water and any amount of carbon dioxide, on which green plants could thrive; but they generate oxygen, and the spectrum of Venus still showed none. There matters stood until, in November last, there was a rather dramatic development.

When Venus is a crescent its dark side can often be seen, rather like the old Moon in the arms of the new, only not so bright. The light on the dark side of the Moon is earthshine, and an observer out in space would see the night half of the Earth similarly in moonshine. Venus has no moon, however, the light in its night sky being due to electrical phenomena. Our night sky also glows, but between fifty and eighty times less brightly. This is partly because Venus is nearer to the Sun and the flow of electrified solar particles is denser there; partly because, as a magnet, our neighbour seems to be about five times stronger than the Earth and so can capture more of these particles.

The night glow or "ashen light" of Venus is at times sufficiently strong for its spectrum to be photographed, as it had been in recent years by N. A. Kozyrev in the U.S.S.R. and Gordon Newkirk in the U.S.A. Their pictures showed a large number of lines produced by glowing gases, one of which was nitrogen; but most of the lines remained unidentified until last year. Spectograms of Kozyrev and Newkirk were then submitted to a detailed analysis by B. Warner at the University of London, with the result that

the night glow of Venus is now known to be due mainly to atomic oxygen. In our lower atmosphere oxygen exists in the molecular form, two atoms combining to form a molecule, but high up in the stratosphere it is dissociated by short-wave radiations into single atoms. On Venus the effect must be stronger, as sunlight there is twice as intense.

Now oxygen is so active an element that it could not long remain in a planetary atmosphere in large amounts unless it were constantly replenished from some source such as photosynthesis in green plants. Its presence on Venus in apparent abundance thus constitutes strong evidence for life there. Why then is oxygen absent from the ordinary spectrum of the planet? For one thing, the accuracy of the methods previously employed must have been greatly overrated. The atomic dissociation of oxygen above the clouds will also be more advanced on Venus than on the Earth; but there may be other causes as well.

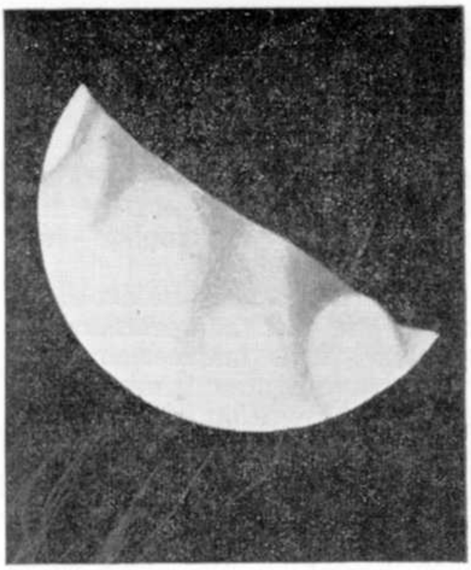
Oxygen content

As stated, Venus seems to be a strong magnet. Gases respond to a magnetic field in varying degrees, and the strongest positive response is shown by molecular oxygen. I therefore suggested, in 1952, that the magnetic field of the planet may tend to retain the oxygen content of its atmosphere below the clouds. Moreover, if, as seems likely, there is a permanent inversion of temperatures on Venus, the air being warmer above the clouds than immediately below them, it can be shown that carbon dioxide, which is a more efficient absorber of radiant heat than oxygen or nitrogen, will tend to diffuse upwards across the inversion line more energetically than either of them. Thus, in the course of ages, a great concentration of carbon dioxide would be built up in the upper atmosphere; and since the stratosphere is characterised by an absence of vertical air currents, it would be trapped there.

In our air carbon dioxide occurs as a tiny, though important, admixture of barely 0.03 per cent. The stratosphere of Venus, on the other hand, has enough of it to make up between a twenty-fifth and a third of the entire atmosphere of the Earth. The processes invoked above give a reasonable explanation of this puzzling situation. If so, however, the air below the clouds of Venus will be much like our own.

We have seen that, although sunlight at the distance of Venus is twice as strong as at that of the Earth, the upper portions of the Venusian atmosphere are very cold. In fact, the dense cloud blanket of this planet reflects about three-quarters of the light and heat it receives. Consequently Venus retains about thirty per cent. less solar heat than the Earth and could be much colder. This, however, is too simple a view. It is well known that a cloudy night is usually warmer than a clear one. That will also be true of Venus, where practically none of the heat will be able to escape to space from the lower atmosphere. The American meteorologist Professor W. J. Humphreys has devised a method of calculating what happens to the heat of the Sun's rays in the Earth's atmosphere, and I have modified it to fit the case of Venus. The resulting mean surface temperature of Venus would be only about 6°F. higher than that of the Earth.

Thus Venus may have a genial climate, with all extremes softened by the cloudiness and mistiness of the atmosphere. But its equator, according to Kuiper, is inclined nearly nine degrees more than that of the Earth to the plane of the orbit, and this will result in a corresponding widening of the temperate and polar zones at the expense of the tropical belt. The short year of 225 of our days will be divided into sharply defined seasons of about seven weeks apiece, and the poles will remain in darkness for 112 days at a time. This would lead one to expect considerable snow-caps, and something of the kind has indeed been observed, especially with the aid of filters, as will be seen in the accompanying drawing. Green filters usually show the bright polar areas best on both Mars and Venus.



Venus with supposed polar cap in south (top) and great rounded cloud in high northern latitudes, probably a cyclone.

The foregoing view is appealing, but there is another snag. Bodies at temperatures below red heat emit short radio waves, which can penetrate fog and cloud; and it has been found by radio-astronomers that the so-called "microwave" radiation from Venus corresponds to a temperature of about 570°F. Where does this radiation come from? The astronomers who previously declared Venus a lifeless desert have seized on this finding to justify their views and placed the source of the radiation on the planet's surface. Thus the seas of Venus would have boiled away.

This conclusion does not ring true, and there is also no necessity for it, once the atmosphere of Venus is known to contain oxygen in a proportion comparable to our own. Oxygen is dissociated into atoms by short-wave radiation from the Sun, and at a certain height loose atoms of oxygen become attached to diatomic molecules, which results in the formation of triatomic oxygen or ozone. In our air ozone is concentrated in a fairly thin layer about fifteen miles above ground. This ozonosphere is our principal shield against the harmful short ultraviolet rays, in absorbing which it

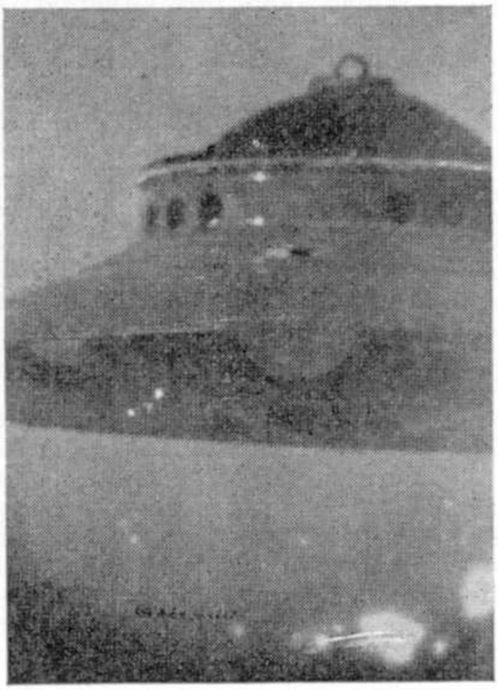
becomes heated to some 300-400°F. On Venus, where unobstructed sunlight is twice as strong, the effect will be intensified; the ozonosphere will be more strongly developed, it will lie somewhat lower, and its temperature will be higher—just about 600°F.

The fit appears to be excellent but, while this interpretation is probable, it is not certain and further investigation is needed. At the time of writing Venus is too low in the northern skies for serious observational work; but it will rise sharply in the new Year, and both in the U.S.A. and at Jodrell Bank extensive plans have been paid for the study of the planet. The results may be expected to shed further light on this and other problems. In particular the length of the day of Venus remains undetermined. In 1956, from radio observations, Dr. J. Kraus of the Ohio State University estimated it at 22 hours and 17 minutes. His result has failed to win acceptance, but it should be possible to check it by radar echoes, which are unhampered by clouds. To sum up, on the present showing Venus seems to be an "abode of life" at least as comfortable as the Earth.

[1] See also "Do flying saucers originate from Mars?" by Aimé Michel, in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for March-April, 1960.

We are grateful to the Countryman, *published at Burford, Oxon, for permission to reprint this article from their Spring* 1961 *issue.*

PHOTOGRAPHS



The following photographs are available in half-plate size at 1s. 6d. each (post free). Complete set of 10 for 15s. (post free).

1. Venusian scout ship photographed by G. Adamski, December 13, 1952.
2. Venusian scout ship rising, showing underside details. Photographed by G. Adamski, December 13, 1952.
3. Flying saucer over New York. Photographed by August Roberts on July 28, 1952.
4. Mother ship releasing scout craft. One scout has begun to leave.
5. Mother ship releasing scout craft. Two scouts have taken off.
6. Mother ship releasing scout craft. Five scouts have left the ship.
7. Mother ship releasing scout craft. Six scouts are now to be seen.
8. Giant carrier ship photographed at 7.58 a.m., May 1, 1952, by G. Adamski.
9. Submarine type space ship, photographed March 9, 1951, by G. Adamski.
10. Space ships photographed near the moon, May 16, 1951, by G. Adamski.

When ordering please give numbers of photographs. Send order with remittance to FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, 1 Doughty Street, London, W.C.1, England.

The Eagle River Incident

A NEW CONTACT CLAIM

ALTHOUGH landing and contact claims have to be treated with suspicion, to ignore them completely might be as unwise as to accept them without reserve. The following account is taken from two issues of the *Milwaukee Journal* of April 23 and 24, 1961. (Credit to our reader, A. Heuel).

Mr. Joseph Simonton, aged 60, is a chicken farmer who lives four miles from Eagle River, Wisconsin, U.S.A. He claims that on Tuesday, April 18 at approximately 11 a.m. he was attracted to his yard by a noise outside and he saw a saucer-shaped object gleaming silver—" brighter than chrome "—which had " landed," though Mr. Simonton later said that he thought the saucer was hovering close to the ground without actually having touched down. The object was about 12 feet from top to bottom and about 30 feet in diameter.

Mr. Simonton went on to say that a hatch opened about five feet from the ground and he could see three men in the machine. One of the men was dressed in a black two-piece suit and he held up a jug which seemed to be made from the same material as the saucer. The man motioned as though to indicate that he wanted water. Simonton took the jug and hurried back to the house to comply with the unspoken request, and returned it to the visitors. He judged that the men were about 5 feet in height and weighed about 125 pounds. He said they were smooth shaved and appeared to resemble Italians.

He did not recall hearing the men speak either to each other or to him. When he looked into the interior of the space-ship it appeared black, " the colour of wrought iron." He said he could see several instrument panels and he could hear a slow whining sound, like the hum of a generator. He added that " it appeared one of the men in the ship was frying food on a flameless grill of some sort."

Offered cakes

Simonton then described how he made a motion to indicate interest in the food that was being prepared and one of the men, also dressed in black but with a narrow red trim along the trousers, handed him three of the small cakes. Later, Mr. Simonton handed one of these cakes to a local official, Judge Carter who had in turn sent it for analysis to Major Donald E. Keyhoe, Director of the National Investigating Committee on Aerial Phenomena, in Washington. Simonton said the cake that he ate tasted like cardboard. The cakes were described as about three inches in diameter and perforated with small holes.

The whole visit did not seem more than five minutes. He said that the large hatch snapped shut and that it must have been machined so smoothly he could scarcely detect where the hatch was when it was closed. The ship took off rapidly to the south and caused a blast of air that bowed some near-by pine trees. Mr. Simonton recalls that along the edge of the saucer he noticed exhaust pipes six or seven inches in diameter.

" When it took off, it really went," he said. " It went up, slow and even, about 15 feet, and then in two seconds it was so far away I couldn't see it."

Sheriff Schroeder, who has known Simonton for fourteen years, sent two deputies to the scene after the incident had been reported. They could not, however, find any corroborative evidence. Sheriff Schroeder affirmed that Mr. Simonton obviously believed the truth of what he was saying and that he talked most sensibly about the whole incident. The Editor of the *Vilas County Review* remarked that " if you took a vote round here, most people would say Simonton's story is authentic." On the other hand, a number of people had telephoned to ridicule the whole story.

A remarkable story

At the moment of going to press, we do not know what the result of the analysis of the cake disclosed, but, apart from this piece of evidence, there is only the farmer's word in support of the whole remarkable story. If it were a hoax, it would seem to be peculiarly motiveless: as the visitors did not speak, there can be no question of any " philosophy " mongering and as far as we can gather from the newspaper reports there was no attempt to cash in on the incident. Although the sceptics may claim that Mr. Simonton must have read about the other

landing and contact claims and was borrowing details from them, the more open-minded may prefer to compare the description of the saucer with those alleged to have been seen by Fry, Adamski, Bethurum and others.

While it is true that at one time base motives might be ascribed to contact claimants, it should be admitted that nowadays very little by way of profit or notoriety attaches itself to witnesses like Simonton. The sensation value has diminished considerably during the last ten years and we doubt whether Mr. Simonton will be invited to write books and undertake lecture tours on the strength of his alleged experience: nor is there the slightest suggestion that he has attempted to establish a cult. It should also be noted that while he did refer to the saucer as a space-ship, he offered no theory as to its place of origin. And, unless something further transpires, we feel that the incident will remain unexplained and finally fade away except, possibly, as part of the local folklore.

THOSE RUSSIAN SAUCERS

THE *A.P.R.O. Bulletin* for March, 1961, refers to the reports coming out of Russia and remarks that the flying saucer "contact cult" fad has caught on, despite attempts to discourage such activities by the government. The *Bulletin* goes on to remark: "The cultists (after all, this is a common phenomena [*sic*] in itself) seem to manifest themselves as soon as the opportunity presents itself, and Russia is no exception. It may be that a lot of Russians are looking for a salvation of sorts, also."

This is a most extraordinary comment. In the first place, we have no information that the landings which, it is alleged, have taken place in many districts of the Soviet Union have brought with them any offers of salvation. The accounts we have read seem to be of the "little men" variety —not at all the evangelical type to which the *Bulletin* is referring. Furthermore, the commentator is adopting a most unscientific approach to the problem. Had the landings in Russia really resembled those which are claimed as having occurred in California and elsewhere, then logic would demand that the new incidents went some way to support those which had occurred earlier. After all, mass hysteria in America can hardly have spread behind the rigid barrier of the Iron Curtain. It is easy to suggest that fear has produced the illusion of friendly visitors from other worlds anxious to save us from ourselves, but there is not one scrap of evidence to show that any of the contact stories have in fact been prompted by the "wish-to-be-saved." What has been suggested is that some at least of the contact stories have been invented as a means of promulgating a salvationist message—a very different matter and a much more plausible explanation for those who do not wish to believe. The *Bulletin's* comment is really just another piece of nonsense and an example of how this extraordinary subject can affect the reasoning powers. It is not only the opponents of saucers who are tempted to write before they think.

BRAZIL UNDER UFO SURVEY—PART III

By Olavo T. Fontes, M.D.

In the last two issues of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW we printed the results of Dr. Fontes's careful research into the orthotenic survey to which Brazil was subjected on 13 May, 1960. Further information came to light which enabled Dr. Fontes to reinforce his map (see our March-April issue) and its geometrical network of alignments. Considerations of space alone prevent our including these supplementary details and instead we concentrate on giving our readers Dr. Fontes's conclusions as to the meanings and purpose of the survey. We reprint this article from the *A.P.R.O. Bulletin* for November, 1960, published from 4407 E. Linden, Tucson, Arizona, U.S.A., with grateful acknowledgement to the publishers.

WHAT can be the real meaning of these straight-line networks connected with UFO activities over certain regions of this planet? What kind of plan or purpose is behind such geometric patterns drawn by UFOs? How many objects are really responsible for these groups of observations and alignments in each network? These are some of the important questions which could not be answered on the basis of the French cases alone. We are fortunate to find some clues in the Brazilian pattern; clues that shed some new light on the whole picture.

It would seem to be a plausible explanation, that of a well-organised reconnaissance of features of the North-eastern region of Brazil, securing certain types of detailed information pertaining to the geography of that area, carried out by a fleet of extra-terrestrial machines. Apparently this would be the logical explanation for orthoteny and also, from our point of view, the most reassuring answer. Yet, several things do not fit into this agreeable theory. Some of them, in fact, strongly suggest a very different meaning for orthoteny—at least in the Brazilian example discussed here. Therefore the following facts must be taken into consideration:

1. The North-eastern region of Brazil has been submitted, since 1953, to a particularly intense and detailed exploration, performed by discs, ball-shaped and cigar-shaped UFOs. Such a reconnaissance was, at the beginning, a systematic mapping programme evidently related with the geographic features of the whole region. Yet, a study of the available evidence clearly indicates that the original purpose was gradually changed into a step-by-step military reconnaissance. That change, started in the last months of 1957, reached its peak early in 1958. The first targets of the military survey were the Air Force, Navy and Army Bases at Fortaleza, Natal, Recife and Salvador. The next objectives, according to the evidence collected involved every Army fortification across the region, civilian airports communication centres, federal highways and railroads of strategic interest. Finally, the survey shifted to the dams, power plants and water supply centres for the most important towns in the area.

2. The pattern outlined above was not apparent at first sight. It became obvious only when all observations recorded in the region were carefully plotted on maps and the common denominators were searched for. On the other hand, the reconnaissance activities referred to never attracted too much attention due to the fact that, in most cases, they were conducted by solitary UFOs, or by a small number of objects—one for each particular mission; the number of sightings recorded at any moment for the whole region was never outstanding, and there was no apparent connection between a given sequence of sightings. In the long run, however, a definite pattern began to appear—easily identified by those, like myself, who had plotted on maps all observations registered over the regions in the last four years. The hundreds of " unknowns " sighted showed a very definite tendency to distribute according to the general pattern described above.

3. The North-east is one of the most backward and undeveloped parts of the whole country, in a striking contrast with the East, South-east and

South. The towns are small and old, the local industry is scarce—due to the inadequate supply of water and electric power. The local roads, with the exception of the paved Federal highways, are very bad. The people are poor and ignorant. On the other hand, the mineral and ore deposits of the region are not abundant, or important, in any way. There are no atomic minerals, there is no petrol or coal fields—only small deposits of tungsten, copper and tantalum ores. The climate is dry and hard.

4. From a strategic and tactical point of view, however, the North-east is a very important region. It is essential for aerial communication and ocean navigation between four continents. Yet, it is not easy to defend in the case of invasion by an enemy. Terrestrial communications with the North are blocked by the dense tropical forest in the Amazon region. Communications with the South and South-east are made only through a few Federal highways. Communications with the South-west are made only through navigation along the Sao Francisco River. Besides, the heavily fortified installations in the area are concentrated along the coast, around the capitals of the States—mostly at Fortaleza, Natal and Recife. The military defences in the interior are small and scattered. There is no radar network covering the whole region. There are no missile-launching bases.

At this point, it is necessary to study more closely the pattern of sightings over the North-east, in the night of May 13. It is evident that the 33 points plotted on the map are population centres. They were the obvious targets for the UFOs that night. Why? What is the *common denominator* linking together all these targets? If we find the answer for this question, then we have the key to the riddle.

As a matter of fact—with the exception of Picui, Solonopolis and Farias Briton — ALL PLACES WITHIN THE ALIGNMENTS ARE COMMUNICATION CENTRES OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE. They are essential key points for road and railroad transport, as well as for river navigation through the North-east. In other words, those points control terrestrial communications through the region; if they are blocked, the whole network of communications through the North-east would be completely paralysed and made useless, as well as the communications with the rest of the country. The communications with the fortified bases at the coast would be cut too.

We don't know how many UFOs were involved in the operation, but it may be important to stress the fact that *at least eight different objects were seen simultaneously—at 7 p.m.—over different locations* across several States very distant from each other in most cases. An accurate examination of the trajectories and behaviour of these UFOs shows clearly that they were really different objects — not the same UFO sighted simultaneously from those several locations. One of these objects was a flying disc, but the others were similar to the so-called " big cloud cigar " so many times reported in the past all over the world —and so well studied by Aimé Michel in his last book. The available evidence indicates that UFOs belonging to this general type are *true* space ships, huge in size, containing *at least five smaller* scout craft, ovoid or disc-shaped, which are launched from the larger ships to explore the areas under inspection. At least seven cigar-shaped (or ovoid) space ships were involved. On the basis of such data, it is reasonable to assume that *at least* 42 *UFOs* were involved on the May 13 operation over the North-east. This whole operation was performed at night—from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. (local times) carefully timed and perfectly co-ordinated, each UFO with a specific target, each one apparently aware of its position on the whole plan—knowing what to do and where. It was evidently a large-scale, well-planned and co-ordinated operation, a perfectly timed tactical manœuvre, planned by intelligences having a perfect knowledge of the region. It is interesting to notice that the network of alignments included the location of major highways, railroad arteries, dams and locks, power stations and water reservoirs through the whole region—but excluded the three important military centres in the area: Fortaleza (which was only touched), Natal and Recife.

What was the meaning and purpose behind the May 13 large-scale reconnaissance?

If the pattern is real—not the result of wishful thinking, which distorts the outlines and makes one accept the conclusion as the final answer, when it may be only the result of coincidences—if the pattern is true, then the conclusion is that the North-eastern region of Brazil was selected by alien intelligences as one of the probable areas for UFO mass-landings in the future. There is no

other alternative—if the pattern is real. Being so, the May 13 large-scale operation can be interpreted as a final test, a tactical manoeuvre of obvious military implications.

The pieces of the puzzle seem to fall together into one very clear pattern. A task force of alien space ships (cigar-shaped UFOs) will come down at night over the North-east. The mass-landings will probably be made in the State of Ceara, inside the triangular area limited by Choro, Quixada, Cajazeiras, Campos Sales, Mombaca and Quixeramobim—possibly around the town of Iguatu, cigar-shaped UFOs hovering over these points will be dispersion centres for a number of smaller disc-shaped machines—that will spread out toward the points of strategic importance at the network's periphery. Their patrolling activities will give complete aerial protection and block terrestrial communications with the landing area. Cigar-shaped UFOs placed over Redencao and Macaibas will counteract any attack from the military bases at Fortaleza and Natal. UFOs over Petrolina and Juazerio will cut the Sao Francisco River in two and block the Federal highway and railroad artery coming from Salvador; another railroad block will be established at Bonfim. Air control will be taken and completed; terrestrial communications will be entirely paralysed at many points inside and outside the landing area. Shiploads of "men" and equipment could be landed there in just a few hours. Defence would be disorganised, scattered and hopeless. The block of communications would create a terrible situation. Weeks might pass before military reinforcements could be brought from other regions of the country. Air traffic would be obviously wiped out since the first hours. Radio communications would be disrupted, power plants paralysed, etc., etc. Outside the landing area, no one would suspect what was happening there—until it was too late. There is no need to tell more. The reader can imagine the rest by himself.

Is this a bad dream? We don't know yet. The best thing to do is to take it as a warning—for all UFO investigators and military authorities all over the world. They must be aware that—if the pattern is real—similar tactical operations can be expected over other areas, over other countries, and that such areas were probably selected for mass-landings too.

As soon as possible, the conclusions of this investigation will be published in the Brazilian press. Lieutenant Montefusco, public relations officer at Fortaleza Air Force Base, said to the press that "the object or objects observed in the night of May 13 *were not* jet fighters from that Base, performing training flights" (Fortaleza *O Estado*, May 18). This statement was the only official reaction to the events of May 13, and suggest that Brazilian authorities are not informed about the whole picture. Therefore, it is necessary to get the information to them.

If there is any hidden proof that attack or invasion is planned, we should be told at once. All of us—every country—should be told the truth and prepared to meet the danger. This is a matter of common sense—to prepare the people for the UFO mass-landings. However, there is at least an even chance that the space races mean us no harm—they may be planning only to make sure that their landings will be made in safety. But even in this case we must be fully prepared. These beings from other solar systems seem to resemble us closely in form—but not in size and anatomic details. Even if they are friendly, their unusual appearance could cause panic—especially in the case of a mass-landing. We must guard against fear, panic and violence by our own people, so that no tragic mistake is made, changing peaceful visitors into deadly enemies. For the first meetings will be tense and dangerous, and we must prevent hysteria.

The truth should be told—NOW.

MISINTERPRETATIONS

Another word to newcomers

THE most persistent form of attack on the hypothesis that flying saucers are inter-planetary is the claim that what the witnesses have seen is nothing more than some conventional object wrongly interpreted. Those who are new to the subject may find it an argument difficult to refute, particularly as the explanation is often put forward by someone in authority who commands the public ear. Since Kenneth Arnold helped to popularise the phrase "flying saucers" in 1947, one of the earliest attempts to explain away the UFOs came from Dr. Urner Liddel of the Office of the United States Naval Research. In January, 1951, he claimed that the sightings had been caused by the U.S. Navy's cosmic-ray research balloons. In 1953, professor Donald H. Menzel published his *Flying Saucers*, a book which gave a diversity of "explanations" to cover many well-known sightings. And then there have been the notorious series of announcements from the U.S. Air Force which allege that all but a small percentage of sightings have been explained away in conventional terms.

Conventionalisations of otherwise inexplicable occurrences is nothing new: readers of the *Works of Charles Fort* will be able to see the process applied for the best part of a century, and not always to flying saucers sightings, but to other extraordinary events as well. It is a natural reaction on the part of an "expert" when confronted with something revolutionary which threatens to upset all his previous calculations.

One example of the "explain it away" method will have to suffice. The nine objects flying in formation over Mount Rainier and described by Kenneth Arnold on June 24, 1947, were accounted for by Dr. Menzel in his book as tilting snow-clouds or dust-haze reflecting the sun. Now, it is extremely difficult to refute Professor Menzel: the objects, one must admit, *could* have been something of the nature he suggests. In fact everything *could* be something else. Speculation along these lines is boundless. Perhaps the best way of dealing with this argument is to pretend that Menzel is in the witness box, having been called to prove Kenneth Arnold mistaken in what he saw. Surely the first question a defending counsel would ask is whether the Professor was anywhere near the spot where the incident was alleged to have taken place. After a negative reply had been obtained, other questions would follow. Had Menzel put to Arnold his explanation? If so, what was his reply? Did Arnold ever admit that he might be mistaken in what he saw? Was, in fact, there any sun-haze at the moment of sighting? And so on. As Kenneth Arnold sticks very firmly by his original testimony, Professor Menzel's theorising as to what the objects *might* have been is really a waste of time and any judge would have to warn the jury that first-hand evidence from a reputable witness is always preferable to conjectures from an "expert," however eminent he may be in his own sphere.

A favourite trick of the conventionalisers is to select that part of the evidence which suits a particular theory and to ignore anything which contradicts it. Thus, the fact that a UFO was seen to be travelling *against* the prevailing wind is not allowed to destroy the weather-balloon explanation: similar explanations have ignored eye-witnesses' accounts of port-holes seen in UFOs and evidence of plan and purpose in their flight.

While it is always possible that a conventional object can be misinterpreted, it is also true that, in the past at any rate, the opposite has occurred and flying saucers have, in fact, been mistaken for something ordinary or, if that has not been possible, written off as a mirage or an hallucination. Professor Menzel never seems to have realised that his arguments can be turned inside out and used in favour of the inter-planetary saucer with at least an equal show of reason. The die-hard sceptic, indeed, is *forced* to explain away every sighting for just one genuine saucer can upset his adamant refusal to believe. The believer, on the other hand, can be more tolerant and admit that occasionally some conventional object in the sky has been wrongly described: after all, there are hundreds of well-attested sightings for which no ordinary explanation is possible.

THE SAUCER— A FLYING PLASMA

BY Dr. B. E. FINCH

IT has only been within recent years that any evidence has come forth of the means of propulsion of flying saucers. Ever since flying saucers first appeared in our skies, their peculiar colour changes were recognised and described. With the discovery of electricity, observers began to associate these colour changes with electrical phenomena (fireballs, lightning, St. Elmo's fire, etc.), as it was now recognised that these aerial objects had things in common with electrical phenomena in the laboratory. But it is only in the last few years that a real inkling of the motive power of the flying saucer has come to light.

Several years ago, there were many sightings in France, when observers described " glowing legs" projecting below the saucers. These observations were later confirmed by a series of photographs taken by a radio operator on a ship off the Californian coast, and, more recently, by several remarkable sightings over Papua, New Guinea.

All these sightings and photographs pointed to the fact that projecting below the saucer while in flight were objects (legs) whose behaviour were remarkably like the electrodes of spark-discharge machines used in the laboratory.

Plasma in the laboratory

When reports of other electrical and magnetic phenomena associated with flying saucers were described, it was realised that here we were dealing with a vehicle which, by means of electrical and magnetic fields, was creating a physical condition known as a " plasma." Creation of a plasma in the laboratory reproduced on a small scale all the known findings associated with the saucers.

The air surrounding us is a mixture of gases, and although all gases are normally good electrical insulators, it is well known that the application of a sufficiently high electric field may cause a breakdown of the insulating properties. The phenomenon associated with the passage of the current (an electrical discharge) depends on the nature and pressure of the gas, on the materials of which the electrodes are made, on the geometry of the electrodes, on the magnitude of the current and the walls of the containing vessel, be it a curtain of compressed air or a magnetic field. This discharge, according to its colour, is known as Dark Discharge, Corona Discharge, Glow Discharge, Gas Bursts, and finally Arc Discharge.

A charged and insulated pointed electrode has a curvature which increases strongly at the pointed end. Therefore the charge density increases rapidly at the pointed end. This high density of charge gives a large electric field strength just beyond the point. This may be sufficiently high to cause a " dielectric breakdown " of the surrounding air. This means that the few free electrons or charged atoms naturally

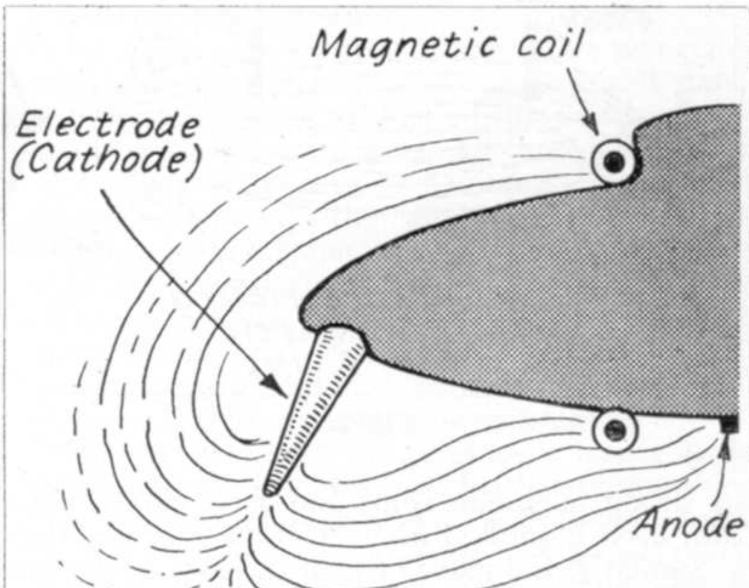


Fig. 1.

present in the surrounding air are accelerated by this strong electrostatic field to such an extent that they are able to know electrons out of neighbouring neutral atoms—to form more free elec-

trons and positivitly-charged atoms—a process called ionisation.

The additional electrons are similarly accelerated and cumulative ionisation results. The air will then conduct electricity, the positive and negative ions moving in opposite directions, but there is a general flow of ionised air (electron wind) from the ends of the electrodes (cathodes) to the body of the saucer (anode).

With sufficiently high potential differences between anode and insulated electrodes (legs of saucer) the air "breaks down" and conducts electricity freely; i.e. discharge occurs and a glow appears (glow-discharge).

This is the usual appearance of most saucer sightings.

This glowing conducting ionised air can, like an electric current, be manipulated by a magnetic field. Hence, when a magnetic field is applied outside the ionised gas the latter can be "contained" (it is remarkable that a magnetic coil is shown in Adamski's saucer and appears in numerous other accounts, and that descriptions

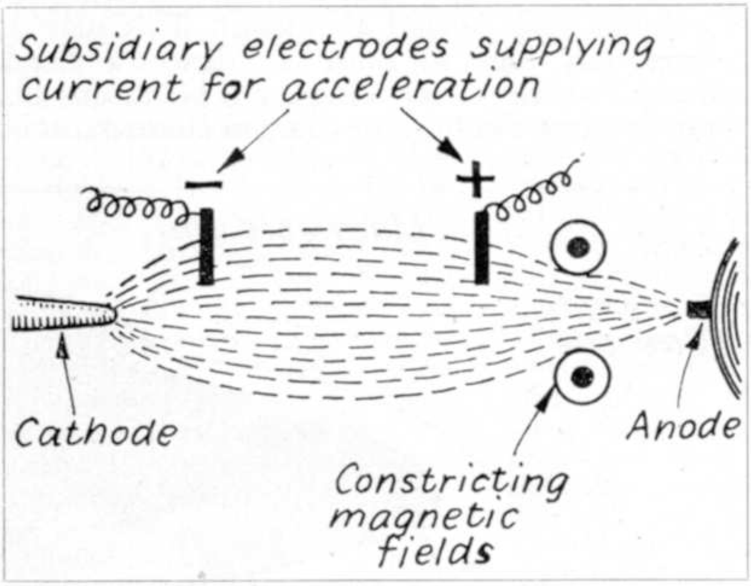


Fig. 2.

of strong magnetic fields and their effects have also been described in association with saucers).

Similarly, the movement of the ionised air can be accelerated by applying an electric current in the direction of the negative ion flow (from electrodes to saucer), see Figs. 1 and 2. This "contained" mass of ionised gases is known as a plasma. It is this mass of glowing air which is seen when a saucer is in flight. This plasma can be accelerated, expanded, contracted, or projected in any direction required by the use of a constricting magnetic field. In addition, as has been described, the flow of the plasma can be increased by passing an electric current through it. Again, by the addition of a "hot gas" or "molten metal" (cesium or sodium) the plasma flow can be still further accelerated. This is due to considerable increase in ionised particles. This "contained" ionised air (plasma) can, as I have said, be easily manipulated by force fields, magnetic and electrical. Another way to increase the ionisation of the air, and hence the acceleration of the plasma, is by heating the electrodes. This phenomenon is often reported in sightings, when the observer describes the "legs" glowing and shimmering, and also the description of burnt holes in the ground after the saucer has ascended bears this out. These electrode legs glow from red iridescence, while the saucer is hovering, to white-hot on acceleration. Again the plasma can be constricted and narrowed for acceleration (pinch effect). It may be that at high acceleration nuclear reactions take place in the plasma.

Reports of sightings show that the plasma may assume various forms; either surrounding the whole anode (saucer) projecting as an inverted cone some way down below the saucer, or as a flat disc or ball, below the saucer and between the electrodes (ball of fire plasma), Fig. 3.

At high temperatures, all the adjacent air becomes highly ionised and exists as a substantially pure plasma (100 per cent. ionisation). The plasma can still further be contained and maintained by using the electric discharge in a pulsed manner. Note how this agrees with the evidence from most sightings, e.g. the rapid magnetic pulsations, the pulsing light, the hum, etc.

One other very important property of the plasma is jet formation. This, too, is characteristic of numerous sightings, especially of the recent ones over Papua, New Guinea. Under certain conditions, the plasma may act as a jet in the form of sharply diffused beams with very high velocities (10^5 cm./sec.). These jets are manufactured from the compressive forces exerted on the plasma by the magnetic field. When this occurs there is a great pressure at the cathode tips (legs) with a falling off towards the anode. This drives the plasma jet, air is sucked into the jet from the surroundings, and propelled forwards at enormous speeds.

Therefore, we see that by electro-magnetic means a high and continuous rate of propulsion could be maintained, by manipulation with free fields any direction could be maintained, there are no moving parts, no friction (because of the ionised air) and, hence, no aerodynamic skin-heating effects. The velocity of the saucer is related to the velocity of the ions of the plasma,

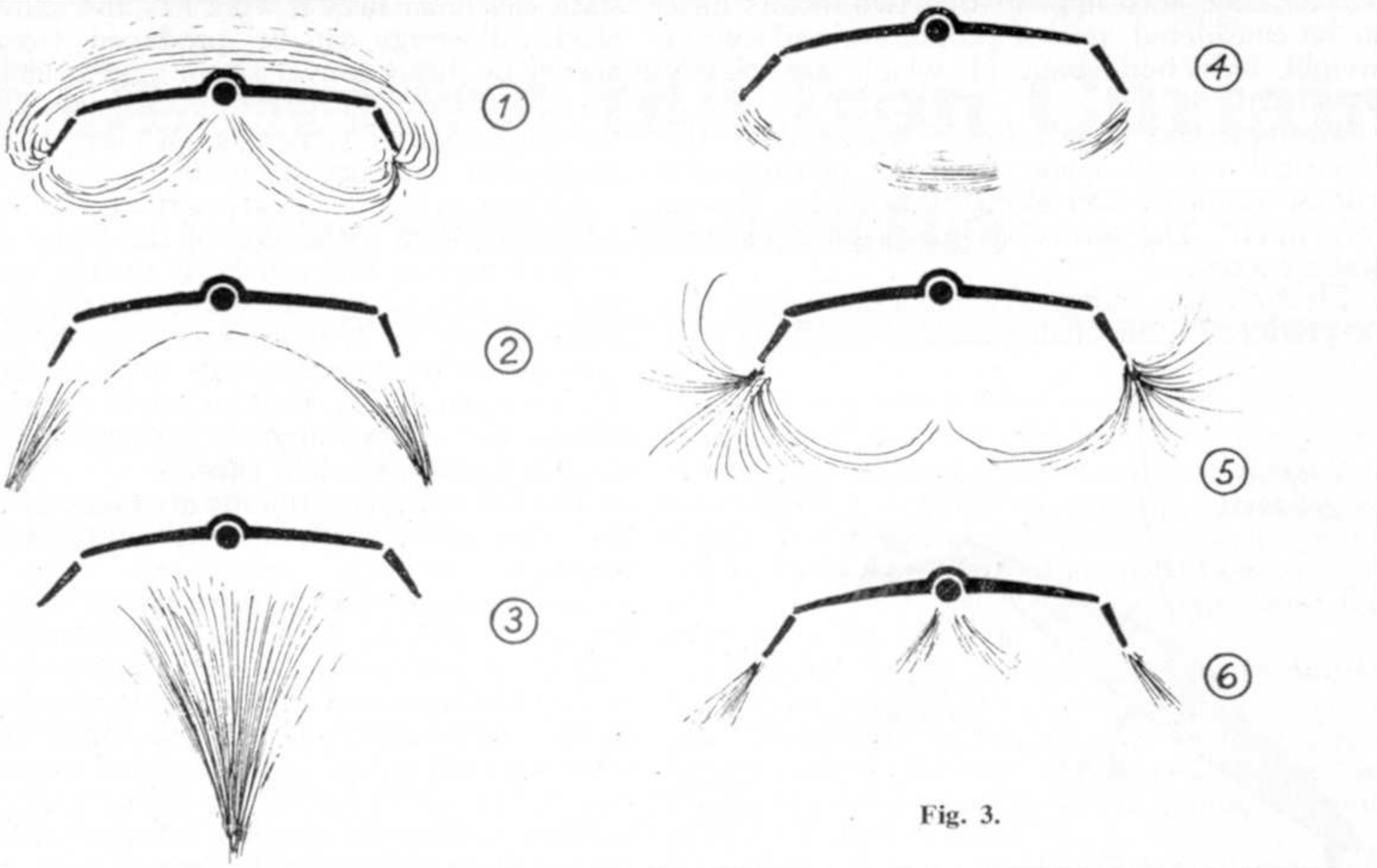


Fig. 3.

which theoretically could reach the speed of light.

Finally, it is interesting to note that ionisation of the air with glowing and other luminous effects can also be produced by ultra high-frequency radio waves, ultra-violet light, X-rays, and radiation, all of which are part of the electro-magnetic spectrum.

Ordinary flames, of course, also produce local ionisation of gases, which are burnt up and chemically recombined. Recently, also, it has been shown that intense ultra-sonic agitation of air molecules will shake off their outer electrons and produce some degree of ionisation and luminescence.

In describing the plasma, little mention was made of the intense magnetic fields associated with it. Strong magnetic fields cause certain characteristic physical and physiological changes, viz. all matter becomes magnetised to some degree depending on whether it is para-magnetic or ferro-magnetic. In an intense pulsating magnetic field, surrounding objects are set vibrating and drawn into the strongest part of the field. Again, intense magnetic fields will neutralise other local magnetic fields, such as those associated with electric motors and, if rapidly pulsating, will therefore stop automobile engines with resulting neutralisation of electric currents and "shorting" of batteries.

As many physiological changes are associated with minute electric currents in nerves, it stands to reason that these magnetic fields will neutralise the flow of nerve currents. All these phenomena are well described in eye-witness accounts of flying saucers, viz. the stopping of automobile engines, extinguishing of headlights, "electrification" and paralysis of the human body, heating of objects to the point where damp substances were dried and organic substances charred, violent agitation and magnetisation of both para-magnetic and ferro-magnetic substances.

Having described the propulsive forces in detail, one realises that with a featherweight object the speed of motion would be immense. Rapid changes of direction, hovering and speeds reaching a fraction of that of light would also be easily carried out and maintained. Obviously the structure of the saucer must be strong, yet its weight must be considerably lowered. This so-called anti-gravity effect must be inherent in the materials making up the saucer's construction and may or may not be controlled by the magnetic field of the plasma. Therefore, if the saucer's weight is actively reduced it only requires a minute amount of energy to keep it hovering or

accelerating. So it appears that two factors have to be considered, one of propulsion and one of weight reduction, both of which are closely associated.

The question now arises, "where does the electrical energy come from to produce the intense magnetic and electrical fields for plasma formation?" The answer is surely from electro-static energy.

Electro-static energy (frictional electricity) can be produced from small machines weighing only

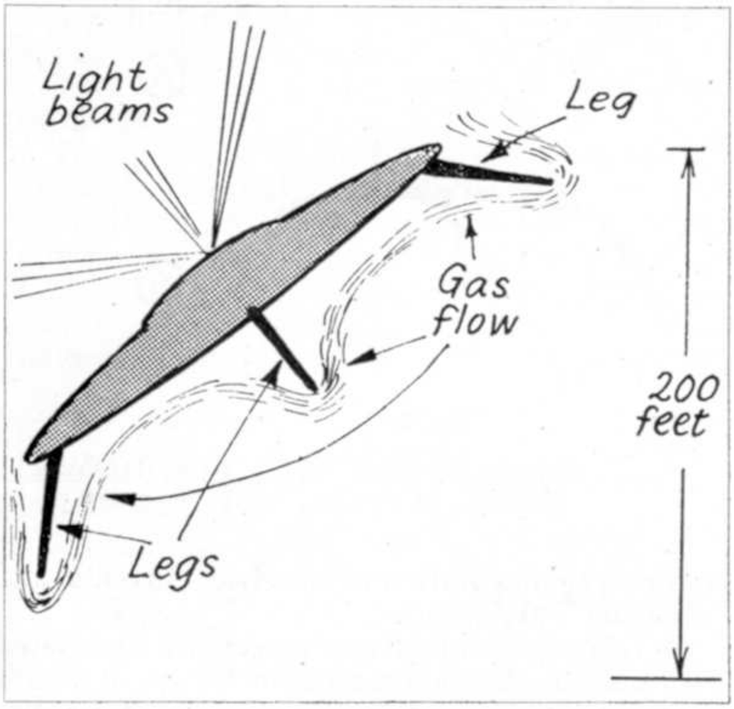


Fig. 4.

a few pounds (Van Der Graaff and Wimshurst). These machines can produce high voltages (up to 50,000v. or more). I feel that this is the main source of the energy required to supply the power to produce the magnetic and electrical fields.

There is no evidence, as yet, as to how these electro-static machines are driven, but obviously some simple form of rotary engine is used. There is a slight hint in historical accounts: we read about brimstone engines, fire and smoke, and many sightings in daylight show smoke, evidence resembling the exhausts of conventional internal combustion engines of today. Another clue is the sound made by the saucer on hovering and accelerating, a sound resembling a centrifugal engine (whining and humming). Any of these methods might be employed to drive the electro-static machine. Recent work has also shown that electrical energy can be produced from solar energy by direct conversion of light to electricity. To what extent this phenomenon plays a part in the motivation of saucers is not clear, as there is insufficient evidence from sightings.

All the evidence in support of the "plasma jet" method of propulsion of the flying saucers, as described in this article, is readily available. One has only to examine one or two of the thousands of reports of flying saucers to be immediately struck by their similarity to the descriptions I have given. Every sighting satisfies the criteria, viz. the electrodes, luminous gas currents, landing gear and magnetic field effects.

The following two reports are taken at random as examples of sightings demonstrating these effects:

An especially noteworthy sighting was experienced by Mrs. K. St. Bereits, of Hamburg. One day in August at about 9.20 a.m. from her garden she suddenly saw an object sinking at great speed towards the houses. It stopped about 200 feet above the ground and slowly glided towards her, halting about 15 feet away. It was a disc about 21 feet in diameter standing on edge with a halo of pulsating yellow light. From a large opening in the middle (upwards in flight) came three equal beams of light which stood out clearly against the haze which lay over the opening. This haze was filled with reflections of the light and immediately above the opening a brownish red glow was visible. As the object slowly moved on, the other curved side became visible (the lower side). Suddenly, on this rear lower side yellow pipes appeared surrounded by a green light (electrodes—legs?). Along these pipes ran a clearly visible air or gas stream (plasma) which continually increased in speed until it became so fast as to become invisible to the naked eye (plasma jets). This report is taken from *UFO-Nachrichten,* January, 1961, issue. (See Fig. 4.)

The second account is taken from the *Eastern Daily Press* of 1 January 1961, and carries a verbatim report of a sighting: "My husband and I saw a strange object on Friday as we were getting up. . . . It had three large lights as big as electric light bulbs and they were spaced a short distance away from each other. It was barely house high (20 feet) and had a bright glare with it. We particularly noticed the way the electric wires responded . . . they were all 'on fire' up our road here, and 'cracked and spitted'." (See Fig. 3.)

UFOs behind the Iron Curtain

by GORDON W. CREIGHTON

THOSE who read my translations of articles from *Pravda* and *Komsomolskaya Pravda* of January 8 last (published in the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for March-April, 1961) may have noticed that the Soviet authorities appeared anxious to convince their public that this silly craze about saucers had only just started in the U.S.S.R., and that it was all due to the recent activities of one or two unscrupulous individuals who had been giving lectures on the subject in Moscow and elsewhere, using as their material some of the absurd UFO reports which had appeared in the irresponsible and sensation-seeking American press some eight or ten years ago and which had, of course, been briefly noted at the time by the Soviet newspapers.

Furthermore, as reported in the issue of the REVIEW for May-June, 1961, Marvin Kalb, writing in the *Sunday Times* of March 5, said that the stories of flying saucers had started in Russia in 1959.

If, of course, the theory of the Spanish investigator, Antonio Ribera, is correct (FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, May-June, 1959) it would be logical for the Soviet Union to have experienced its mass-visitation and scrutiny by UFOs at a date *later* than the U.S.A. (which seems to have been between 1947 and 1950) and also later than the countries of Western Europe (the sensational years for Britain and France seem to have been between 1950 and 1954). But is Marvin Kalb correct in saying that the stories about UFOs over the U.S.S.R. began only in 1959?

Readers of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW may find it interesting to study the book *Russia Against the Kremlin*, by the well-known French journalist, Alexandre Metaxas, which was published in Paris in 1957, an English translation being brought out in the same year by Cassell.

Alexandre Metaxas, the quality of whose reporting will be well known to those who remember his remarkable series of articles entitled "How China Worries the Kremlin," in the *Sunday Times* of January, 1960, is himself of Eastern European origin, and the important thing about him is that he is one of the very, very few Western journalists who claim to speak Russian so perfectly that they can talk to the ordinary people of the U.S.S.R. wherever they meet them without it being suspected that they are not themselves citizens of the U.S.S.R.

His book, *Russia Against the Kremlin*, and his articles in the *Sunday Times* show how well he used this ability to mix with the ordinary Soviet citizens during his visit there in 1956. And this is what he has to say (pp.78-79) about the young people of the U.S.S.R.:

> "While I was in Russia I conducted a sort of Gallup Poll of my own. I questioned many young people of both sexes, and we talked freely about all sorts of things. It was rarely that I had to ask a question outright; they never stopped asking me about the most diverse subjects. It was while answering them that I managed to slip in a question or two of my own. They were passionately eager to know how we in the West live, what our hopes are for the future, what our needs are and what our possibilities. Not once did a question so much as hint at propaganda or criticism. What interested them most were astro-nautical problems, the whole field of 'Science Fiction', the Martians, the galaxies, inter-stellar communication, even flying saucers."

From my own wide reading of Soviet newspapers and technical journals over the past seven or eight years, I can confirm that this estimate by Alexandre Metaxas must be correct, for the amount of material published in Russia on the subject of Space Travel, life on other worlds, etc., has been absolutely astonishing. Although "flying saucers" were never mentioned in this enormous volume of Soviet writing about Space and Space Travel, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the Soviet Government is, in fact, quietly preparing the minds of its people for the day when contact with extra-terrestrial beings can no longer be concealed or denied.

While on the subject of Iron Curtain saucers, readers may be interested in the following comment by Julius Sakowski writing in the emigré *Dziennik Polski—Polish Daily*—of March 8, 1961:

"The legend or psychosis of 'flying saucers,' now dying in the West, has revived in Russia. It has even assumed such alarming proportions there that the Soviet authorities have determined to take counter-measures. *Pravda* has begun a campaign against rumours which are at variance with scientific experience, and against charlatans who spread confusion. Their stories have been branded as idle tales, and their origin unmasked: they are derived from reports published in the U.S. press of 14 years ago.

"Those who assert that they have seen flying saucers may be regarded as maniacs, but the fact is that a similar vision appears simultaneously to whole crowds of the inhabitants of our globe. What is more, the accounts of the 'eye-witnesses' agree. From California to Uzbekistan. One can therefore speak of the contemporary psychosis, the 'mal du siècle'. . . .

"An analysis of this 'mal' has now engaged the attention of one who is indeed no charalatan, namely the well-known scientist, co-creator (with Freud) of Psychoanalysis—Jung himself. He has recognised the problem to be so important that in his old age he has devoted a whole book to it. It turns out that he had patients who had never heard of flying saucers, to whom the flying saucers nevertheless appeared in their dreams. Although similar visions have had much publicity since the Second World War, the phenomenon has in fact been known for a long time. There are records of saucers in the chronicles of the sixteenth century. At Nuremberg, in 1561, shining rings were seen, rotating in the sky with vertiginous speed, and a similar phenomenon was seen five years later at Bâle.

"Jung is a believer in, and indeed the creator of, the theory of the Collective Unconscious. This is the place of origin and container of illusions and symbols common to people, out of which myths are born. This contemporary myth of the flying saucers differs from others in that it is a symptom not of collective exaltation but depression. It is not a myth but a 'complex'.

"According to Jung, the flying saucer complex denotes the anxiety, indeed even the panic, of contemporary man in the face of what may await him. He transposes his own fear outwards in the form of a symbolic vision.

"Putting it in another way and in simple terms: if someone sees flying saucers, it is a proof that he is afraid of an atomic bomb, or of Khruschev, or of the extermination of humanity and the end of the world.

"One may perhaps note, as a comforting symptom, that at the present moment they are more frightened in Russia?

"No one in the Soviet Union knows about Jung's book, for Psychoanalysis is on the Index there, and even held in contempt. . . ."

Editor's note: [The "psychosis" which saucers are alleged to have induced on both sides of the Iron Curtain would seem to have affected the sceptics, too. In our November-December, 1960, issue, Felix Kelly reminded our readers that Professor Jung wrote in his book that "unfortunately, however, there are good reasons why the UFOs cannot be disposed of in this simple manner. So far as I know, it remains an established fact, supported by numerous observations, that UFOs have not only been seen visually, but have also been picked up on the radar screen and have left traces on the photographic plate. I base myself here not only on the comprehensive reports by Ruppelt and Keyhoe, which leave no room for doubt in this regard, but also on the fact that the astro-physicist, Professor Menzel, has not succeeded, despite all his efforts, in offering a satisfying scientific explanation of even one authentic UFO report." Felix Kelly also reminded our readers that the psychological explanation offered by Jung applied only in the cases of his patients.

Incidentally, it is strange that the first post-war wave of UFO sightings should have appeared over the United States in 1947 at the very moment when Americans must have felt more secure than at any time since. The Atom Bomb was considered an American monopoly then and it would be today that the "psychosis" should be at its height if the theory were anything but utter nonsense; the sceptics, indeed, are telling us that the saucer myth is fading and not increasing in spite of the menace of modern weapons. The "psychosis," however, has caused sceptics like Julius Sakowski to quote Jung's book without apparently having read it.]

BOOK REVIEW

FLYING SAUCERS and the U.S. Air Force by Lt.-Colonel Lawrence J. Tacker (D. Van Nostrand Company, $3.50).

This book gives the impression of having been written in self-defence of the U.S. Air Force in face of pressure upon members of Congress to call for an investigation; the author, who is described as being now assigned as Chief of the Magazine and Book Branch, Office of Information, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Washington 25, D.C., was presumably given an assignment to write it. It is rather slight, the large print text coming to an end on page 87 and the small print appendices (Air Force regulations showing the correct way to present information and old news releases) on page 161. There are far too many spelling mistakes, or literals as they are known to printers, in the text.

Air Force history of unidentified flying objects or flying saucers is stated to begin with Kenneth Arnold's sighting on June 24, 1947, and the various projects involved Headquarters Air Materiel Command, Headquarters USAF, Washington, D.C. and the other major commands, such as the Air Training, the Air Defense, the Tactical Air and the Strategic Air Commands; later, the Aerospace Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (ATIC), in consultation with members of the Scientific Advisory Board to the Chief of Staff, United States Air Force, the Weather Bureau, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Rand Corporation. This is, indeed, a ponderous and confidence-inspiring list of capable rationalisers and we are not surprised that Secretary of the Air Force Donald A. Quarles is quoted as having stated, after Project Bluebook was made public in 1955, that "on the basis of this study we believe that no objects such as popularly described as flying saucers have overflown the United States" (News Release, page 136, incorrectly quoted on page 17).

"Rapid identification of anything that flies is an important part of air defense"—from foreword by General Thomas D. White, Chief of Staff, USAF. "Unidentified Flying Objects. Any airborne object which, by performance, a e r o d y n a m i c characteristics, or unusual features, does not conform to known aircraft or missiles, or which does not correspond to definitions in a and b above." (a. Familiar or Known Objects; b. Unidentified Aircraft) — from Air Force Regulation 200-2 dated September 14, 1959, as given on page 92. "The Air Force emphasises the belief that if more immediate detailed objective observational data could have been obtained on the unexplained flying saucer sightings in its files, these too would have been satisfactorily explained as conventional objects or some form of aerial phenomena."—page 47.

In the chapter "Saucers in the News" ten sightings are listed with conclusions, of which two remain unidentified (one being Captain Chiles's on July 24, 1948, listed in our Chronology;[1] the other, less well-known, on October 26, 1958). We wish Captain Mantell's had been omitted: it is the first to be given, following this sentence "A few of these should be discussed for the record so that a proper mood can be established for the next chapter dealing with the psychology of the saucer sightings and the fact that even when objective valid conclusions are offered by the Air Force they are rejected by the confirmed saucer believer." The conclusions in this case are alternatives, replacing an incorrect first identification as the planet Venus: "Mantell did die either chasing a skyhook balloon or another possibility, as suggested by Dr. Donald H. Menzel of the Harvard Observatory, Captain Mantell may have mistaken some form of aerial phenomena such as a mock sun for a flying saucer, flown too high without oxygen and crashed." In describing the incident, Captain Mantell's last words over the radio are quoted, including—as he was closing in: "The thing looks metallic and it is very large." The mood established in us by the "objective valid conclusions" (?) offered by the Air Force in this case was one of distress that they should not so unnecessarily discredit the judgment of their servant, a brave man who can no longer say what he saw when he had closed in.

But, even if Captain Mantell had survived and described an unknown object in detail, denying the explanations offered, his own conclusions would not have been accepted. In the view of the Air Force, the observer is not best qualified to say what he saw. "Visual astronomers, astrophysicists, and their associates are the only ones who truly qualify as experts in this field of UFOs." In the chapter "Listen to the Experts," Dr. Menzel reveals his mind as already made up: ". . . I prefer the name 'Flying Saucers', rather than UFO, which implies that they are material or tangible." (Dr. Menzel evidently doesn't help with the washing-up). Later, he writes "I have, in my opinion, duplicated or seen duplicated practically

every famous flying saucer apparition in the books!"

No mention is made in this book of the famous Montana and Utah colour films, which were included in the United Artists documentary film "Unidentified Flying Objects" and on which the official verdict was "Not balloons, not aircraft, not birds—not faked." Indeed, the United Artists film is subtly discredited by means of a letter in the chapter "The Psychology of Saucers."

The book does not mention the minority of astronomers who have seen, or do believe in flying saucers. However, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Professor of Astrophysics at Northwestern University and Associate Director of the Astrophysical Observatory for the Smithsonian Institute is quoted as an expert who would like to believe in visitors from space. But, he says: "Even those famous 'unknowns' do not appeal to my reason as the sort of things by which distant intelligent beings would try to communicate with us. Why be so mysterious? Why appear in such trivial ways and to so few? Why not present a full-scale display to a full city?"

These questions long troubled us, too, but we believe we have the answer now, at least in part. It is an answer that anyone should reach who would use his imagination and try to place himself in the position of unrecognised visitors of much higher culture and civilisation: if you wished to carry out surveys for your own purposes, would you not give the natives the opportunity, while refraining from compulsion, to acknowledge your existence?

If our words reach any of those responsible for policy towards Unidentified Flying Objects, we say to them: Act as though "space travel in reverse" does exist—we have too much circumstantial evidence to doubt it; relieve your Air Forces of the unnatural burden of responsibility for identification, whereunder they fail in their task if they cannot identify in conventional terms; appoint a branch of your police forces to examine all evidence relating to flying saucers; by all means make information available to your air forces and intelligence services for evidence of hostile propaganda or weapons, but draw your own conclusions and make your conclusions public.

—Our Reception Committee

[1] See page 24 of this issue.

Sighting reports . . .

ENGLAND, SOUTH AFRICA, NOVA SCOTIA, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, and TANGANYIKA

. . . in this issue

A BLIND EYE IN SPACE

The closed mind of the Press

ALTHOUGH Britain is not actively engaged in the race to the stars, its newspapers are devoting more and more attention to the achievements of the astronauts of the U.S.A. and Russia. Space is becoming the first topic of the day and will grow in importance as further triumphs are notched up by one or other of the two great Powers. But the possibility that there are other worlds and other astronauts is completely ignored.

The London *Sunday Times* of May 21 carries on its front page the story that signals have been received with the Jodrell Bank radio-telescope (on May 20) which may have come from the emergency transmitter carried in Russia's Venus probe. According to calculations, this probe had passed within about 60,000 miles of the planet.

The rocket was launched on February 12. It was announced in Moscow on March 2 that radio contact had been lost, possibly because the main radio equipment was damaged by collision with a meteorite.

Jodrell Bank scientists have received man-made signals which come from the right direction and are on the right frequency, but reception has been poor. As they could not be positively identified, tape recordings have been sent to Russia.

Only two things are certain. If the signals do come from the Russian space probe we shall be told. If they do not, we will not hear another word about the matter. Our scientists—American, Russian and British—sometimes seem to us to be the most incurious people in the world. Or do they think that important news is too heady for us?

Alarming conclusions

In the same issue of the *Sunday Times*, Scrutator contributes a lengthy article, "We Need a Rule of Law in Space." As far as it goes it is a sensible article with one or two alarming conclusions. After briefly reviewing the progress in space during the last few years, Scrutator writes: "But the urge to act is never far behind the urge to know; and now, as the pace hots up and the frontiers of the impossible recede, the motives of action are beginning to close in on the motives of scientific curiosity. As in other fields, when men begin to penetrate this new field of their environment they will quickly find themselves doing things that affect it in one way or another, and seeking to make use of it for terrestrial purposes."

The article continues by pointing out that the politicians have turned to the international lawyers to see how they stand. Had the international community any rights or was it to be a free-for-all? This was one question, but there were others. Can the first arrivals claim the Moon, or part of it, as their national territory? Will one great power use its space technology to frustrate the efforts of its rival? The article concludes by remarking that "unready as the two Powers are to submit their space activities to the control of a world authority, if they do not their efforts will probably end in mutual defeat."

Aims unchanged

Most of the article from which extracts have been taken is very sensible, particularly where it underlines the warning that Earthman is not likely to change his spots merely because he has entered a new environment. Russian ambitions and American fears will remain the same: space exploration and conquest will merely subserve old ends. All that will have happened is that war, either cold or hot, will have gained a new dimension. Technology advances: morals remain the same.

The most significant aspect of this *Sunday Times* article is the bland assumption, running right through it, that there is no third Power—a race at the moment beyond our ken and also beyond our technology—waiting and watching, at the moment tolerant of our first, unsteady steps in outer space. What is so astonishing is that this possibility should go on being ignored so late in the day. A few years ago we were told, without fear of contradiction, that space travel was impossible because of the distances involved. We were also told that the Moon could not support life in any form. Both these assumptions have exploded in our face. If politicians and lawyers are starting to argue about the ownership of the

Moon, then it must be possible to reach this planet and also to colonise it. And if we can colonise the Moon, would it not be wise just to consider the possibility that someone else has beaten us to it? Or are we to proceed like sleep-walkers until an unpleasant shock jolts us into an awakening?

It seems almost impossible to believe that the possibility of life on the other planets has been ignored by those in charge of space exploration. Or do they believe that the worst we have to meet is some bug-eyed monsters who can be mowed down by our latest weapons? Has the H-bomb made us so arrogant that we think we are universally omnipotent? Or are we just blind?

FLYING SAUCERS AND THE STRAIGHT LINE MYSTERY

Michel's book available again

More than a year ago the REVIEW imported from the United States a limited number of copies of *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery* by Aimé Michel. The importation was very quickly sold out and the book has been unobtainable in England for some time, but we are glad to be able to report that copies are available again. Readers are referred to the John M. Watkins Bookshop advertisement on the inside front cover of this issue.

The importance of Michel's book can hardly be over-stated. The discovery of an orthotenic (straight line) pattern to the sightings which occurred over France in 1954 destroyed once and for all many of the attempts to explain the saucers away in conventional terms. For instance, only the people who happen to live along a straight line on a map are not likely to be suffering from hallucinations: even a psychiatrist clutching for a subjective explanation would have to admit that the orthotenic alignment of deluded witnesses was, to say the least, a surprising feature of the sightings which stretched from one end of France to another.

More recently, Michel's book has taken on an added importance as the result of a similar pattern of orthoteny having been discovered by Dr. Olavo T. Fontes in Brazil. Dr. Fontes's series of three articles (concluded in the current issue of this REVIEW) makes several references to Michel's important work in this field.

Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery contains a foreword by General M. Chassin, General Air Defence Co-ordinator of the Allied Air Forces in Europe (NATO), who writes: "Aimé Michel has chosen the difficult path of research which is temporarily in disrepute. His work should not be wasted. It is vital that we understand it clearly. It is vital for us to understand phenomena that may perhaps determine our own future."

PUBLIC OPINION AND THE SAUCERS

BY THE EDITOR

MOST public opinion polls devote their investigations to political trends, more often than not on the eve of a general election. Very often—though by no means invariably—they have proved to be reliable forecasts of the electoral results. By taking a sample the pollsters have been able correctly to assess the bulk.

Unfortunately, it is doubtful whether the public's thoughts on flying saucers would yield to a similar investigation. In the first place, it should be remembered that in politics the two or three main parties—in the western world, at least—are "respectable," i.e., in England, for instance, a man can publicly acknowledge his preference for Conservative, Labour or Liberal without any inhibition. Even if heat is engendered at election time, it is soon dissipated. This is, perhaps, another way of saying that we live in a democracy, though before we get too smug about it, it would be as well to admit that the official policies of our three parties are almost indistinguishable, and the real conflict of opinion exists within the parties themselves. However, the result is the same: people are able to express their beliefs and allegiances openly and, what is most important, without fearing social ostracism.

When we leave the somewhat barren field of politics and apply a public opinion test to flying saucers we are on a quicksand. So many conflicting thoughts and emotions exist on this subject that answers, however freely they may appear to be given, are often conditioned more by extraneous circumstances than by the nature of a simple question. To give an example, it is useless for a questioner to ask a friend what he thinks about saucers, for the reply will be influenced perhaps by politeness and a fear of offending a believer. Therefore, if we are to test a sample, we should be careful to question only complete strangers. Even then the replies will be conditioned by circumstances. For instance, can the reply be overheard? Is it likely to be quoted? In other words, what will the neighbours think?

Let us admit that flying saucers are not respectable. Those of us who have publicly affirmed their belief in them have, to a certain extent, cut themselves off from the current of acceptable opinion. A whole set of circumstances have conspired to put us in this position. To begin with, the statements made on the subject by those in authority have been confusing, to say the least. Although it has been worse in the United States than in England, the pattern of double-talk has been very similar. From a recent sampling of public opinion, taken from strangers only, the typical reply would be: "There was a lot of talk about flying saucers some years ago, but it has all been exposed." If one persists in asking who has succeeded in exposing the flying saucers, the answers will include: "The Government," "The Air Force," "The Scientists," or just "They."

Now, it is quite possible to break down the resistance of an individual who has answered in this way and to get him to modify his opinion, but that would be to defeat the purpose of the public opinion poll. We have to admit that outside our own ranks—and how large they are we do not accurately know—flying saucers, if and when they occur in general conversation, are being dismissed from serious consideration. It would be difficult to discover whether the contact claims and crackpot opinions (which abound) have contributed to this state of affairs, but we imagine that they have not helped. It would be true to say, however, that Adamski is now taken less seriously than he was. This is not necessarily any reflection on his claims—it is merely that public opinion has veered away from the saucers in recent months and he has suffered with the rest.

Whether we agree that there is a conspiracy of silence or whether we attribute the silence to the age-old and instinctive fear of a new idea, the opponents of flying saucers have succeeded in putting a brake on public opinion. The nearest parallel we can think of would be the conditions which prevail when a country is at war. It is not necessary on every occasion to shield the citizens from all knowledge of what the enemy is saying or doing. It is much more subtle to persuade the people that the enemy always lies and then you can allow the semblance of free speech and opinion to continue. Propaganda, cleverly employed, can work much more effectively than censorship. We can ignore the controversy over the secrecy, but we can all admit that, whatever the cause, "they" have succeeded in making flying saucers unfashionable as an open topic of conversation, particularly among those who are jealous of their social position.

In America, the position may be slightly different. It is a younger country and is, therefore, less inhibited by social considerations, but conformity is a powerful influence on both sides of the Atlantic. In Europe the only difference will be in degree, and we have recently heard from a Swiss friend that in her country the subject is practically dead.

All this may sound depressing and, on the surface, we cannot pretend otherwise. Below the surface, however, the picture is very different. The concept of inter-planetary saucers is deeply embedded and it needs only one fortuitous circumstance to break through the inhibitions and to make all other topics seem trivial. The spadework has been done.

A SAUCER CHRONOLOGY

THIS includes some of the best-known, not necessarily the best, of thousands of sightings. Similar objects were reported in earlier centuries, but not with the frequency of the last two decades—since the " foo-fighters " of World War II. A few of the best-known contact claims are also included, without implying endorsement. The references in brackets are to back numbers of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.

June 21, 1947—Harold Dahl, steering patrol boat near Maury Island, Washington State, saw five objects at estimated 2,000 ft. circling another which appeared to be in difficulties. The latter discharged white metallic-looking material and dark fragments, with a loud explosion, whereupon the group departed out to sea. (Vol. 1, No. 1.)

June 24, 1947—Kenneth Arnold, businessman, flying private aircraft over Washington State, saw nine huge flat objects flying at estimated 1,200 m.p.h. near Mount Rainier. His description to reporters as " saucerlike " popularised the expression " flying saucer." (Vol. 1, No. 1.)

July 4, 1947—Captain E. Smith, of Eastern Airlines, and his first officer reported nine saucers joined by four, silhouetted against evening sky near Boise, Idaho. (Vol. 1, No. 1.)

January 7, 1948—Captain Thomas Mantell, Air National Guard pilot of F.51 Mustang fighter, killed in pursuit of huge red glowing saucer at about 20,000 ft. over Godman Air Force Base. Object seen by thousands in Kentucky. Aircraft disintegrated. (Vol. 1, No. 1 and No. 5.)

July 23, 1948—Captain C. S. Chiles and First Officer John B. Whitted, near Montgomery, Alabama, had near-collision with glowing cigar-shaped craft, with two rows of windows, which accelerated, shooting out red-orange flame and rocking their DC-3. (Vol. 1, No. 1.)

October 1, 1948—Air National Guard Lieutenant George Gorman chased a moving light (a " foo-fighter ") which dodged his F.51 as he came in to land at Fargo, N.D. (Donald E. Keyhoe, *Flying Saucers from Outer Space*.)

April 24, 1949, Arrey, New Mexico—J. Gordon Vaeth, aeronautical engineer in employ of U.S. Naval Research Office, and Charles B. Moore, observing launched skyhook balloon, tracked with theodolite whitish ellipsoid higher up, of diameter about 100 ft., altitude about 56 miles and speed about 25,000 m.p.h. (Vol. 1, No. 1.)

April 27, 1950—Captain Robert Adickes and Captain Robert F. Manning, of a T.W.A. DC-3, westbound over Indiana at 2,000 ft., were overtaken and accompanied by red glowing object, seen also by air hostess and passengers including Boeing engineers C. H. Jenkins and D. C. Bourland. Object departed at high speed. (Vol. 1, No. 1.)

May 29, 1950—American Airlines flight 49 (DC-6) near Washington, D.C., circled by cigar-shaped unknown at night. Captain Willis Sperry convincingly interviewed in film " UFO."

July 2, 1950—Employee of Steep Rock Iron Company, Ontario, and his wife picnicking at Sawbill Bay watched, unobserved, large saucer on water and activities of diminutive occupants. (*Steep Rock Echo*, Sept.-Oct., 1950, quoted in H. T. Wilkins' *Flying Saucers on the Moon*.)

Summer, 1951—Three saucers seen in daylight at an estimated 5,000 ft. by hundreds of people at Mexico City airport and photographed by news photographers and movie-camera men awaiting an incoming plane. (Vol. 2, No. 1.)

August 25/30, 1951—Successive formations of about thirty lights each raced silently across the sky at estimated 1,800 m.p.h. if at 50,000 ft., over Lubbock, Texas. Seen by hundreds of people and photographed by Carl Hart, Jnr. (Vol. 1, No. 1.)

April 4, 1952—Herr Oskar Linke, ex-mayor of Gleimerhausen, near Meiningen, while escaping from the Russian zone of Germany with his daughter Gabriele, saw a circular craft (like a warming pan) on the ground near Hasselbach. Near it were two human figures, clothed in a kind of shimmering substance. One of the men appeared to carry a lamp on his chest which flashed at regular intervals. When disturbed they hurriedly entered the saucer which then ascended rapidly and disappeared. (*Illustrated*, February 19, 1955.)

July 2, 1952—U.S. Navy Chief Photographer, Warrant Officer Delbert C. Newhouse, took colour film of fleet of saucers near Tremonton, Utah (included in United Artists' film " UFO "). (Vol. 4, No. 5.)

July 14, 1952—Pan American Airlines Captain William B. Nash and co-pilot Captain Fortenberry, flying at about 8,000 ft. near Newport News, Virginia, at 8.15 p.m., sighted six large discs flying in echelon below their DC-4 at esti-

mated 8,000 m.p.h. but suddenly reversing direction on being joined by two others. Many reliable sightings were reported over America during the remainder of July. (Vol. 3, No. 3.)

July 19/20 and 26/27, 1952—Numerous objects gathered over Washington, D.C., at night and radar showed them moving off at high speed when jet interceptors approached, but not before they were seen. Later, they returned. Incident reconstructed in United Artists' film "UFO."

July 31, 1952—Engineer Giampiero Monguzzi, of Monza, Milan, Italy, climbing with his wife in the Bernina mountains, saw and photographed several times a saucer landed on a glacier, also the pilot as he walked round it, and as it flew off. (Vol. 4, No. 5.)

October 17, 1952—Cigar-shaped object dropping a great quantity of wool- or nylon-like fibres in its wake, over Oloron, France. One of many examples of dissolving "angel hair." (Vol. 2, No. 6.)

November 20, 1952 — Amateur astronomer George Adamski claimed, with affidavits from witnesses, to have met a man from Venus near Desert Center, California, landed from a saucer released from a cigar-shaped carrier seen overhead. Adamski claims subsequent contacts and his photographs of both types of craft are the most well known. (Vol. 1, No. 1.)

February 15, 1953—Stephen Darbishire (aged 13), accompanied by Adrian Myers (aged 8), photographed a saucer resembling Adamski's as it approached as if to land on the fells near Coniston, Lancs. (Vol. 1, No. 1.)

February 18, 1953—Cedric Allingham photographed and claimed to have conversed with a man from Mars, emerged from a flying saucer landed near Lossiemouth. (Vol. 1, No. 1.)

August 17, 1953—Salvador Villanueva, Mexico City taxi-driver employed to drive tourists to Texas border, was left alone with his broken-down car on Highway 85 near Valles. Two men, one Spanish-speaking, from a landed saucer spent the night with him and at dawn invited him on board, but he fled. (Vol. 2, No. 2.)

September 3, 1953—Al Bender, head of International Flying Saucer Bureau, Bridgeport, Conn., claimed to have been silenced by three men, apparently representing some Government agency, as he was about to publish a correct explanation of flying saucers. (Vol. 3, No. 3.)

October 6, 1953—Mr. F. W. Potter, of Norwich Astronomical Society, and other residents of Norwich saw a flying saucer, with lighted portholes, resembling Adamski's photographs. (Vol. 1, No. 1.)

June 29, 1954—Captain James Howard, of B.O.A.C. Stratocruiser "Centaurus," sketched a large parent spacecraft ("about the size of an ocean liner") and accompanying saucers seen also by his eleven crew and twelve passengers in clear weather before sunset for 18 minutes over Labrador. (Vol 1, No. 1.)

June 30, 1954—At 15,000 ft. above Litjell, Telemark, Norway, in early afternoon, three Scandinavian airliners carried 50 observers of an eclipse of the sun. The party saw and filmed two revolving discs. (Vol. 2, No. 1.)

July 30, 1954—Buck Nelson, farmer living alone in the Ozark Mountains, Missouri, claimed to have been visited by people landed from disc-like craft. He later claimed to have been taken on interplanetary voyages to the moon, Mars and Venus. (Vol. 1, No. 2.)

August 20, 1954—Two Norwegian girls, Edith Jacobsen (aged 24) and Asta Solvang (aged 32) saw a landed saucer and conversed by signs with the pilot, while berry-picking near their home at Mosjoen. (Vol. 1, No. 4.)

October 4, 1954—Flight Lieutenant J. R. Salandin, Royal Auxiliary Air Force, reported close encounter with three discs, one of golden colour and two silvery (one of the latter observed in detail) in good daytime visibility, when flying a Meteor mark 8 jet fighter at 16,000 ft. over Southend, Essex. (Vol. 1, No. 1.)

November 6, 1954—Around midday about 100 saucers formed and re-formed over Rome in echelons and a Greek cross for some hours, reported by Dr. C. Alberto Perego, Via Ruggero Fauro 43, Rome, Italy. (Vol. 3, No. 3.)

November 7, 1954—*Sunday Dispatch* reported six repetitions in previous few weeks, each time around midday, of unidentified radar echoes, passing east to west at about 12,000 ft., from 40 to 50 invisible objects, over Britain and always in the same pattern: first in U formation, changing to parallel lines, then to a Z or N. (Vol. 2, No. 5.)

December 13, 1954—One of three saucers over Campinas, Sao Paulo, Brazil, dropped incandescent molten metal drops, of which over thirty were collected from thirty people by Danton Gomes, of the *Correio Popular*. Analysis showed chemically pure tin, of density 10.3. (Vol. 3, No. 5.)

August 15-16, 1955—Sightings (golden ball, white streak, cigar-shaped object of various colours) over Yorkshire during the night. About 4 a.m. lorry-driver Ernest Suddard and son (13), in Roundhill Street, Bradford, saw in his head-

lights a human shape about 4 ft. tall in tight black clothes, wearing a circular silvery disc, perforated with holes, on the chest just below the throat. The figure hopped towards them, then turned down a passage. At 11.30 p.m. on August 19, Bradford warehouseman Mr. Wood saw in a street lamp's light about half a mile from Roundhill Street a " bright silver bullet shape " standing about 12 ft. high, 4 to 5 ft. in diameter, and emitting a high-pitched buzzing. (*The Inexplicable Sky,* by Arthur Constance.)

April 7, 1956—Mrs. Elizabeth Klarer, of Mooi River, Natal, South Africa, claimed to have entered and flown a short distance in and photographed a saucer manned by Venusians, who first attempted to contact her on December 27, 1954. (Vol. 2, No. 6.)

May 9, 1956—First public showing of United Artists' " Unidentified Flying Objects," a Greene-Rouse production, world's first feature-length documentary motion picture on the flying saucer phenomena. Contains Montana and Utah colour films; covers period from Arnold sighting, 1947, to " Washington Crisis " of July, 1952, and includes reconstruction of Mantell incident. A film in which former Air Force personnel actually concerned in incidents participate in uniform. It asks the question: " If they are not of this planet —where are they from?"

May 11, 1957—Major Wayne S. Aho and others saw a spaceship land on the Mohave Desert, California. (Vol. 4, No. 3.)

May 19, 1957—Large object, sometimes round, of differently reported colours seen by thousands of people manœuvring over State of Victoria, Australia. Speed nearly 2,000 m.p.h. Reported by local radio and B.B.C. (Vol. 3, No. 4.)

July, 1957—Dr. Joao de Freitas Guimaraes, professor of law in Santos, Sao Paulo, Brazil, claimed to have been invited aboard a saucer, landed on the beach at Sao Sebastiao at 7.30 p.m., by two tall men and taken for a flight of about 40 minutes. (Vol. 3, No. 6.)

September 4, 1957—Captain Lemos Ferreira and three sergeant pilots of the Portuguese Air Force, exercising their flight of four F-84 jet bombers at 25,000 ft., watched for 40 minutes the manœuvres of a saucer which released four small lights. (Vol. 4, No. 3.)

November 2, 1957—Several people including sheriffs and policemen, at different places near Levelland, Texas, saw a large luminous egg-shaped object at least 200 ft. long, over highways, which interfered with car engines and lights. (Vol. 4, No. 3.)

November 4, 1957—James Stokes, research engineer of U.S.A.F. Missile Development Centre, near Alamogordo, New Mexico, encountered huge elliptic object which cut his car radio on Highway 24, also his engine and those of ten other cars, and emitted heat. (Vol. 4, No. 3.)

November 5, 1957—At 2 a.m., large flying saucer hovered over Brazilian Army fortress of Itaipu at Sao Vicente, near Santos. Forcefield caused burns. (Vol. 6, No. 1.)

Early December, 1957—Saucer with tripod undercarriage seen off San Pedro by crew of British steamer *Ramsay* and photographed by Radio Officer T. Fogl. (Vol. 5, No. 1.)

January 16, 1958—Captain Jose Teobaldo Viejas (Brazilian Air Force, Ret.) and crew of Brazilian Navy Survey Ship *Almirante Saldanha,* cruising near Trinidad Island, saw and photographer Barauna took pictures of saucer nearby. (Vol. 4, No. 3 and No. 5; Vol. 5, No. 1.)

February 24, 1959—Captain Peter Killian, co-pilot First Officer John Dee, crew and thirty-five passengers of American Airlines DC-6 watched three illuminated flying saucers manœuvre for 45 minutes, while flying at about 8,500 ft. between Phillipsburg and Bradford, Pa. (Vol. 5, No. 3.)

March 13, 1959—Large grounded saucer seen in detail, before taking off, by Mr. Percy Briggs, driving with a load of vegetables, accompanied by postmaster Mr. C. Towill, of Claypans, at 2 a.m. near Cournamont Hill on the way to Mannum, on Murray River, South Australia. (Vol. 5, No. 5.)

June 27, 1959—The Reverend William B. Gill, in charge of Boianai Anglican Mission Station, South East Papua, New Guinea, and several witnesses observed large saucer, with four human occupants, hovering for about half an hour from 6 p.m. The occupants, who appeared to be working, waved in return. (Vol. 5, No. 6.)

July 11, 1959—Five commercial airline pilots reported five UFOs about 1,000 miles east of Honolulu. Manœuvres described by Captain George Wilson, Pan-Am., en route San Francisco to Honolulu. (Vol. 5, No. 5.)

May 4 and 13, 1960—Many sightings over Brazil, revealing straight-line patterns when plotted. (Vol. 7, No. 2.)

October 4, 1960—The Rev. Lionel Browning and his wife, of Cressy, Tasmania, saw cigar-shaped carrier and accompanying saucers emerge from raincloud. (Vol. 7, No. 2.)

NOTE: We intend to publish an even shorter Chronology as a regular feature, for the assist-

(*Continued on page 4 of cover*)

World round-up

of news and comment about recent sightings

ENGLAND:

Northampton flaming object

A flaming object "perhaps as big as an aircraft" was seen flashing across the sky over Northampton by several people on the night of May 13. One man, who said he was an airline pilot of 30 years' standing, but declined to give his name, said that he heard "a supersonic bang" 70 seconds after seeing the object—"the most amazing thing I have ever seen." He said that he sighted the object at 7.59 p.m. when he was standing near the Bedford Road level crossing.

"It was flaming very brightly and flashing over Northampton in a north-easterly direction. It could have been as big as, or bigger than, an aircraft and it was going several thousand m.p.h. Because of its speed I only saw it for about four seconds." He calculated that the object was less than 20,000 feet high and dropping. "I reckon it would have dropped in the sea or on the continent."

The object was seen by other Northampton citizens, including a *Chronicle and Echo* reporter and a Wootton Hall police sergeant. Several people reported having heard an explosion at about 8 p.m.

(See Northampton *Chronicle and Echo* for May 13. Credit to Mr. G. L. W. Beardsley.)

Windsor Ice

For many months inexplicable falls of ice from an otherwise innocent sky have not made news. This may be because no ice has fallen: on the other hand, more important news may have frozen out the subject.

We were, therefore, delighted to learn from the London *Daily Mail* of April 10 that Mr. Charles Boseley, who lives at Windsor declared that a chunk of ice "the size of a football" crashed on to his roof recently. We wish Mr. Boseley no harm and we agree with his remark that "someone might have been killed." We sympathise with him and we can understand the anxiety which prompted him to write to London Airport Commandant John Warcup to enquire, somewhat testily, if a plane had dropped it. We doubt whether he will obtain a satisfactory reply. There are some mysteries that remain beyond the intelligence of even such an important person as the London Airport Commandant. Very few pilots, for that matter, make a practice of jettisoning ice-blocks over inhabited areas.

Hampshire Sighting

A firm disbeliever in flying saucers and space craft, Mr. H. G. Hoyle of 27 Dartmouth Road, Copnor, watched from Rowlands Castle on the night of March 2, 1961, from 9.15 p.m. to 9.45 p.m. a brightly lit object travelling across the sky. The spectacle caused Mr. Hoyle to change his mind about Unidentified Flying Objects. Here is Mr. Hoyle's description of what he saw:

"We were visiting a friend, Mr. Roger Smith, a farmer, and we were driving past Forestside when we first saw it. At first I could not believe my eyes. But then I saw that it was really there. The object was between the horizon and the visible star line. It was at a great height and very bright and large. It appeared to be travelling quite slowly and we had it in view for about 25 minutes as it travelled in a north-westerly direction."

Mr. Hoyle is convinced that he did not mistake the object for either a balloon or the planet Venus. He said it was travelling too slowly to be an aircraft and as there were no clouds it could not have been a reflection. Mr. Roger Smith added that he saw projections or beams of light coming from beneath the object.

Corroboration would appear to come from Miss Barbara Bowyer of 4 New Parade, Portchester who, on the same night and almost at the same time saw, with witnesses, a white top-shaped object travelling in the sky from east to west (i.e., in the opposite direction to earth-made satellites) for about twenty minutes. The object was seen from Hambledon, at the rear of Portsdown Hill. It was also seen on the following night, March 3, but this time it was yellowish in colour.

(Credit to Mr. E. Sears of Fareham, Hants.).

Eastbourne Sighting

The following account is taken from the Eastbourne *Herald-Chronicle* of April 22:

"Did you see it? Mr. B. L. Oldham of 156 Willmingdon Road, Eastbourne, tells me that waking up at 2 a.m. on April 6, he saw a large light object travelling rapidly across the sky. This is how he described it to me: 'It was about the size of a full moon, like a big silver ball with jagged edges. It was travelling much faster than an aeroplane and was

making a zooming sort of noise'. Mr. Oldham told me that before he could make a closer observation upon it the object disappeared from view. It was travelling from the direction of Pevensey Bay towards Eastbourne, roughly over the coastline."

Brighton Mystery

On the night of August 16, 1960, Mr. J. Rogers of 74 Newmarket Road, Brighton and two witnesses, for more than half an hour watched a mysterious object in the sky which behaved unlike any known object. At 10.35 p.m. it was seen when looking south over Brighton and it appeared at first blurred as a shooting star, but later as clear as a fixed star but without the flicker. It was pale yellow in colour. The feature that attracted the attention of the three witnesses was that it travelled from south-west to north and then stopped for ten minutes. Starting and stopping it followed a zig-zag course until it was last seen moving east at a slow pace until it disappeared at 11.10 p.m. Its speed varied from very fast at first to dead slow.

The behaviour of this unidentified object rules out the possibility that it was a conventional aircraft or a meteorite or shooting star.

Sheffield Mystery Object

On March 18, the *Sheffield Telegraph* printed the following letter from Mr. G. Townsend of Mytham Bridge, Bamford: "While standing outside our bungalow on March 3 round about 8 p.m. I saw a large red object come from behind the end of Bamford Edge by Ladybower. It crossed the dam and went behind Winhill, then came into view again and continued up the Hope Valley till I lost sight of it. I called my wife out to see it. It appeared to fly like a huge bird: there was no noise, it could not have (had) any engine, and it kept an even keel. The light appeared to be at least one foot square from where we stood. I have not heard of anyone else seeing this object. It was not travelling very fast. Perhaps you could tell me something about it for curiosity's sake."

We do not know if Mr. Townsend has received any reply to his query, but if he has we expect he was told by some "expert" that the object was a Russian satellite wandering over Yorkshire. This seems to be the current and fashionable explanation for UFO's.

The Navy spots a flying saucer

The London *Daily Mail* for May 17 quoted from the Admiralty's *News Summary* for the previous day. Item No. 16 was headed "Another busy month for minesweepers," and contained the following extracts from the log of the Minesweeper H.M.S. *Maxton* on passage from Arseu, Algeria, to Palma, Majorca:

April 19—"At 19.40 a sighted object to WNW., high altitude, moving fast. As it drew closer an orange tail grew progressively wider from the leading point in contrast to normal vapour trails. The object emitted a strong greenish light. It appeared to increase height abruptly and disappeared to the North-West at a great speed."

April 20—"At 14.50 a same remarkable phenomenon sighted to the North. Again a trail, thin at first and getting much broader at leading point as range decreased. Revealed erratic course with abrupt alteration. Again object disappeared to NNE., apparently rising and increasing speed."

These extracts appeared in the *News Summary* without comment and were signed by Lt. C. J. Paterson who was in command.

A spokesman for the Board of Admiralty said: "The whole thing is a complete mystery to us. This is the first report of such a phenomenon in the Royal Navy. No doubt we shall just have to put it down in the record as unsolved."

Although we have reason to dispute the statement that this is the first sighting made by the Navy, we would like to congratulate the spokeman for the Board of Admiralty. He has at least admitted that there is a mystery, whereas most officials would have attempted to explain the matter away in conventional terms.

Oberth on Saucers

Writing in the London *Sunday Times* on April 15, Professor Hermann Oberth dealt with the future of space exploration and made a number of predictions as to the possible course of events following Major Yuri Gagarin's epoch-making achievement. He discussed the use of spherical mirrors in space for the observation of any point on Earth and suggested that such a surveillance should make disarmament agreements more practicable in that any violation might be quickly spotted and nipped in the bud. Professor Oberth then went on to remark: "We could also make a careful study of our neighbour planets before landings on them, and observe the nearest suns to see if they, like ours, are circled by inhabitable or uninhabitable planets. We might even find out whether the enigmatic flying saucers are really, as assumed by Keyhoe, space ships from distant worlds."

This is a very interesting comment. Professor Oberth is a believer in the flying saucers but holds, or so he is quoted, that they could come only from tau Ceti or one of the other stars nearest to our Sun. For some reason he does not, apparently, believe that they could come from one of our neighbouring planets which, we suppose, cannot yet be allowed to be inhabitable. As a result, even those astronomers and experts on space who believe in flying saucers are obliged to fix their home bases on stars incredibly distant from the Earth in spite of the very great difficulties which such an assumption produces. We are proving that journeys to the Moon, Venus and Mars are possible in terms of a few months only, and it would seem

to us that it is much more reasonable to assume that the saucers come from one or more of the planets in our own solar system. Our belief is strengthened by the gradual admission by astronomers that Mars and Venus may not be so barren as they were once supposed: in this context we would refer our readers to A. V. Firsoff's article on Venus elsewhere in this issue. If we are right then the "enigmatic saucers" will not remain a mystery for very much longer.

We think that Professor Oberth has been a little unfair to Donald Keyhoe. We do not remember that Keyhoe has ever made a statement that the saucers come only from the distant stars. He has often canvassed the possibility that they emanate from the nearest planets.

No Meteorite

The *Birmingham Mail* of May 13 reported: "A mysterious 'glowing, blue-and-white' object was seen falling from the sky by Birmingham people yesterday evening. One report from Solihull Lodge described it as 'descending rapidly and leaving a trail of sparks.' Other reports to Edgbaston Observatory confirm that an object was seen falling by people in New Oscott.

"'We have no idea what this was,' said an Observatory official. 'It is unlikely that anything natural like a meteorite would have been seen in daylight. It may have been connected with a R.A.F. exercise.

"If the object was a meteorite, it would seem to be much larger than the usual meteorites seen. An Air Ministry spokesman in London said: 'We have no information of any such incident and no aircraft was involved.'"

It is worth noting how words can bedevil thought. The Observatory official, more open-minded than most of his kind, thought that the object was not anything "natural" and then hazarded the guess that it might be something to do with the R.A.F. Surely this doesn't make the object unnatural?

Nottingham object

The *Nottingham Evening News* for May 13 reports: "It was a beautiful spring evening and the setting sun was turning the few clouds over the Nottinghamshire countryside to silver and gold. And as Mr. George Allen sat in his conservatory last night after dinner he was full of admiration . . . when suddenly, without warning, he saw something flash across the sky. Mr. Allen, who lives at Linden Cottage, Colston Bassett, told the *Evening News* today that he was looking upwards when suddenly he saw an 'object' move quickly from North-west to South-east. It was apparently circular in shape and was certainly 'shining with a silver sheen.' 'It had behind it what some people might call a tail,' said Mr. Allen, but he thought this might have been a reflection of the sun. It bore no comparison with anything he had ever seen. It moved completely silently and because of its incredible speed was gone within seconds. 'It would have made a jet aircraft look as if it were standing still,' added Mr. Allen.

"'It resembled illustrations of flying saucers previously seen by other people,' he said. He checked on the time by phoning TIM—it was dead on 8 p.m. At midnight on the previous night (May 11), Mr. Bob Cobb, of Bourne Avenue, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, reports that he saw a 'star' in the Leo constellation that 'should not have been there.' He saw it move from West to East, and called his wife out to look. It was nothing like an aircraft and, again, it moved in complete silence. After 15 minutes it disappeared.

" Both Mr. Allen and Mr. Cobb refer to what they have seen as unidentified flying objects.

"The Notts. County golf captain, Harry Johnson, noticed the object while playing the 12th hole at Wollaton Park at about 7.30 p.m. last night (May 12). He said there was a 'smoke trail' across the sky—rather like a Very light, and suddenly the object 'disintegrated.' It was impossible to estimate its height, but it was seen by several other people on the course."

Boreham Wood blue light

The following report is taken from the *Edgware Post* for May 18: "What was the blue light in the sky on Friday evening (May 12)? This is a question which many Boreham Wood residents have been asking since witnessing the phenomenon—a phenomenon which has set the flying saucer rumours off again.

"Usually, stories about this sort of thing vary considerably. But the handful of people—they come from various parts of the district—who saw IT, tally to the extent that it was a light, it was bright, and it was blue.

"The man who undoubtedly got the best view was Mr. Arthur Allen, of Gateshead Road—a man not prone to flying saucer fantasies. In fact, he thought he had witnessed the unusual phenomenon of a falling meteorite being seen in broad daylight. Mr. Allen—married with four children—told the *Post*: 'I was just turning into Theobald Street from Elstree Station when I saw a blue light in the sky. It disappeared quite suddenly. It came down very fast and at an angle. I immediately thought of a meteorite, but it was difficult to tell for certain. An unusual point was that it could be seen so clearly in daylight. It was only 8 p.m. At first I thought it was going to hit the ground, but at that moment it vanished.'"

Not a very remarkable sighting, it is true, but the story illustrates one or two points that are worth stressing. First of all, the reporter, obviously not acquainted with our subject, appears to think that all saucer stories vary considerably: the truth, of course, is that they often tally remarkably, as it appears this one did. Whatever the object was, it should also be noted that Mr. Allen did not rush to accept an extra-ordinary explanation as some pundits hold that we are all prone to do. Mr. Allen did the opposite. Readers will also notice the reference to flying saucer 'fantasies'.

SOUTH AFRICA:

Over Bain's Kloof

The *Cape Argus* for May 9 reported as follows: "Several people in Church Street, Wellington, saw what they believe to be a flying saucer over Bain's Kloof at 7.45 a.m. today.

"The unidentified object, circular and with no wings, according to those who saw it, was seen high in the sky above the mountains of the Kloof. Imker Hoogenhout (17) said the object was caught in the rays of the sun, which was on the point of rising above the mountain. Shining brightly, it was stationary for a minute or two, then began to oscillate from side to side.

"Suddenly it swung left and disappeared towards the east at great speed, leaving a trail of white vapour. A number of other people in Church Street watched the object.

"Dr. R. H. Stoy, Her Majesty's Astronomer at the Cape, said that there was no astronomical explanation for the object and added: 'It is odd that ever since the first satellite went up some years ago we have heard nothing about flying saucers—in spite of the fact that more people than ever before throughout the world have been watching the skies'."

We have written to Dr. Stoy pointing out that flying saucer sightings have in no way decreased but that, for some reason or other, the newspapers do not consider the subject to be of any importance. Further, even if the reports had decreased it would not be surprising in face of the ridicule which has been directed against the UFOs and those who have seen them.

(Credit to Mrs. Myra Fortes.)

NOVA SCOTIA:

"We won't say anything"

Dozens of city residents reported seeing a mysterious UFO over Halifax on the night of November 22, 1960, according to the *Halifax Chronicle-Herald* of the following day. It was described as "a ball of fire with a flaming tail" or "something like a rocket with twin jets." The UFO was seen at approximately 4.40 p.m. Commercial air officials and the Royal Canadian Air Force and Royal Canadian Navy said the UFO had nothing to do with them: they also said that they had made no sightings.

A possibility that the UFO may have been a leonid meteor—often seen in the sky at this time of the year—was discounted by a city astronomer when told that the object had been seen for five minutes. "A meteorite would have faded after thirty seconds," he said.

Two Halifax men hunting in the Musquodoboit area saw the UFO at about 4.45 p.m. Arthur Hickey of Bloomfield Street who was hunting with a companion, Bert Whitman of Robie Street, said the UFO looked like a ball of fire with a long flaming tail.

"We thought it was a plane on fire," he said. "It was in the sky for about five minutes when it started to disappear gradually and then suddenly it disintegrated. The ball was white and the tail orange."

Another viewer—who wishes to remain anonymous—said it was a "pointed object" with "two streams of flames." This witness was standing in Spring Garden Road, Halifax, when he saw the object flying in a westerly direction at 4.50 p.m. He said that the UFO "had small things like wings sticking out on the side—it looked like a rocket of some type."

There were a number of other people who corroborated this sighting: many of them wrote to subsequent issues of the *Chronicle-Herald*. In spite of these witnesses, however, the usual conventionalisations were put forward, none of them fitting the evidence of the independent witnesses. A new note was struck by a "spokesman" at the Air Traffic Centre at Moncton. After refusing to confirm or deny that there was a flight that may have accounted for the sighting he delivered the following statement which deserves a high place in any anthology of "official" pronouncements on the subject of flying saucers: "There may have been or there may not—we won't say anything." With this comment very few of us could quarrel and it must have left the good people of Nova Scotia exactly where they were and as puzzled as ever.

(Credit to *Saucers, Space and Science* (Canada), March, 1961 issue).

AUSTRALIA:

The Tasmanian sighting

In our March-April issue we gave a detailed account of the remarkable sighting reported by the Rev. Lionel Browning and his wife of a cigar-shaped airship and a number of smaller craft over Cressy on Tuesday evening October 4, 1960. This account called forth a letter from one of our readers who enquired why the Rev. Lionel Browning was so certain that the objects did not come from another planet: his first opinion was that they were Russian.

We have just received a copy of the *Australian Flying Saucer Review* for February, 1961, and from this we learn that the Rev. Lionel Browning's beliefs must have undergone a change. He recently addressed an audience of more than 200 people at a Victorian Flying Saucer Research Group. During the course of his lecture he described how he saw the cigar-shaped object pausing after emerging from a rainstorm when the saucers suddenly appeared. He went on to say: "There was something ominous about the precision with which the "homing" took place around the mother-ship." Mr. Browning added that he believed that authority knew a good deal more about sky objects than it was prepared to say: further, he believed that authority did not want to create a panic.

This sighting seems to have been taken seriously by the Civilian Aviation Department, possibly because of the standing of the principal witnesses and of the corroborative support of others.

The *Australian Flying Saucer*

Review, from which we have quoted, includes a sketch prepared by the Rev. Lionel Browning and compares it with Illustration No. 10 in Leslie and Adamski's *Flying Saucers Have Landed.* There is certainly a strong resemblance between the sketch and the photograph which claims to show a cigar-shaped object releasing flying saucers.

The Rev. Lionel Browning's sighting must rank in quality with that of Father Gill over Papua in 1959. Unless the testimony of these two clerics (and their witnesses) can be overthrown, the reality of the spaceships cannot be denied.

NEW ZEALAND:

Tractor hit by mystery object

A small, red-hot piece of metal which dropped from the skies on March 24 and struck the petrol tank of a tractor at Whitstone, near Oamaru, has been sent to the United States for tests. The incident occurred in the early afternoon as the owner of the property, Mr. L. Wilson was grubbing a paddock. Mr. Wilson burnt his fingers in trying to pick up the metal object.

When it was cooled, it was sent by Mr. Wilson to Mr. A. R. Lowry, science master at Waitaki Boys' High School, who tested it for specific gravity. It was only 6.3, whereas the specific gravity of iron or nickel from a meteorite is expected to be in the vicinity of 8.5. Mr. Lowry sent it on to Professor D. C. Coombs, professor of geology at Otago University, who, after tests, was not prepared to say what it was. He in turn sent it on to Professor B. Mason, a New Zealander who is a meteorite expert at the New York Museum of Natural History. Professor Mason's report has not yet been received.

Mr. Lowry said the piece of metal was a small ¾-inch cube, reddish brown in colour, with cubical markings and definite areas of stratification.

(Report taken from the New Zealand *Herald* for May 9, kindly sent by Lieutenant A. R. Holden, R.N., Retd.)

RHODESIA:

An obstinate eye-witness

We print the following account from the *Bulawayo Chronicle* for April 3 mainly to illustrate the strength of the opposition to flying saucers in some people's minds. The fact that the object described stopped several times is not allowed to upset the witness's incredulity.

"A mystery object travelling at speed high over Melfort, 30 miles from Salisbury, has been seen by Mr. R. Hicks, a retired farmer and former chief inspector for the S.P.N.A. Mr. Hicks said the orange coloured object, travelling from north to south, appeared over his 250 acre farm at about 8 p.m. on Wednesday (March 29). It was about the size of a large star and he and his wife watched it for more than half an hour before it went out of sight.

"Mr. Hicks said that an African servant told him that he had seen a similar object at about the same time last night. The African said that the object stopped several times, shooting off again at speed after emitting what appeared to be a trail of flame.

"Mr. Hicks said: 'I won't believe in flying saucers until I see one'."

And not, apparently, even then.

RUSSIA:

Gargarin's open mind

On his triumphant return from space, Major Yuri Gagarin was interviewed by Russian reporters on his future plans. He declared himself a man dedicated to further space exploration and said that he would very much like to see what lies beneath the clouds that surround Venus. He added that he would also like to discover if there really were canals on Mars. This is a refreshing contrast to those Earth-bound pundits who declare that Venus is a boiling cauldron and Mars an arid waste. If matters were left entirely to Major Gagarin it would not be long before we knew the truth, for he indicates by his replies that life is possible on the planets he hopes to visit.

Obituary

Professor C. G. Jung

THE death of C. G. Jung, the distinguished Swiss psychiatrist, took place at his home in Kuesnacht at the age of 85. His discoveries revolutionised the treatment of mental illness throughout the world.

In 1959 he published *Flying Saucers,* an equivocal work, which gave comfort to both believers and sceptics: the latter were inclined to overlook those passages in which Professor Jung had admitted that, in spite of the fact that some mentally deranged people had imagined strange objects in the sky, the objective reality of UFOs could not be denied in the face of the evidence. Professor Jung, in fact, was fascinated by our subject and had devoted years of study to it. A possible explanation of his caution in writing about it can reasonably be attributed to the climate of current scientific opinion which is not, even now, ready to accept as an hypothesis the inter-planetary origin of the UFOs. Seen in this light, Professor Jung's book takes on a very different aspect. What he wrote was perhaps about as far as a man of his eminence could go during his lifetime. It would not be a great surprise, however, if there were to be discovered among his papers some unambiguous declaration.

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

Binding Forces

Sir,—Wilbert B. Smith writing on Binding Forces (see March-April, 1961 issue) states that "some years ago, following several rather bad crashes for which there was no satisfactory explanation, the people from 'elsewhere' were asked through 'contacts' if these crashes were possibly due to our craft flying too close to their craft."

Might I ask Mr. Wilbert Smith to elaborate? Where is elsewhere? Who were the contacts? It is not that I doubt Mr. Smith, for he is one of the most distinguished names in Ufology, but it is rather tantalising to be offered so much and given so little. What Mr. Smith is, in effect, saying, is that he has the solution to the mystery of the skies which has puzzled us for so long. I wonder how many other of your readers noticed the sentence from Mr. Smith's article which I have quoted.—Mrs. H. M. Murchison, Jersey, Channel Islands.

Danger from the Stars

Sir,—In your May-June issue you say that most governments could suffer a complete collapse if the truth about the saucers were to break unexpectedly. Is this not rather an extreme statement? Would it not be possible for the news to be accepted much more calmly than you appear to think? After all, other startling discoveries have been made in the past which have hardly affected the government at all. Scientific reputations may be shattered, but even that has happened before without disturbing the man in the street or his elected representatives.—J. D. Lang, Wembley, Middlesex.

(*The warning that civilisation might collapse if the news that we were not alone in the universe were to break suddenly came from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in the U.S.A. It is true that other revolutionary discoveries have not in the past upset us to this extent, but nothing quite so startling has ever before confronted humanity. Russian and American achievements in space travel—on which so much national prestige depends today—would shrink to insignificance. Instead of being leaders we should overnight have to become learners in nearly every branch of science. Much, of course, would depend upon how the news was actually broken, but the warning we quoted assumed that it would be sudden—Editor.*)

Springheel Jack

Sir,—If your request for evidence of extra-terrestrials in our midst had produced nothing else but the article on Springheel Jack by J. Vyner in your May-June issue it would have been well worth while. All serious researchers into the UFO mystery must be grateful to Mr. Vyner for bringing to our notice the extraordinary occurrences which he relates. Only those who refuse to recognise that the saucers must have occupants and that they may be human will try to ignore this outstanding contribution to the study of our subject.

I notice, by the way, that Charles Fort has no reference to this mysterious person and it seems odd that such a collector of *curiosa* should have missed him. On the other hand, references to Springheel Jack must have been fairly common in the newspapers of the day and he is mentioned occasionally in Victorian novels. I had previously no idea that he existed as a person and had always assumed that he was a sort of Jack o' Lantern or a personification either of some murderer or highwayman which had passed into nursery lore in order to frighten recalcitrant children into obedience.

My only quarrel with Mr. Vyner is that he does not give his references. Would it be possible to ask for more details from Mr. Vyner? Could he be persuaded to write another article on the subject? I feel certain that there is much yet to be told. — Bertram Phillips, Wolverhampton, Staffs.

Sir,—I was very interested in the article "The Mystery of Springheel Jack" by J. Vyner which appeared in the May-June issue. There are several aspects of this story which correspond closely with the "creature" stories. There seem to be several things connecting all the "creature" stories. It is impossible to inflict injury on them: two soldiers fired at Springheel Jack without injuring him. Herr Linke, when escaping from East to West Germany in April, 1952, came across a strange circular craft on the ground and near it were two

human figures dressed in silvery garments. One of them had a flashing lamp on his chest.

I agree with you that more interest should be taken in the contact claims. The sighting reports have been collected and studied to the point of boredom without getting us any further. It is about time that the contactees were brought to the fore and studied and analysed. Perhaps then we shall gain some definite results and conclusions. —Margaret Holmes, Bexleyheath, Kent.

(Our reader is referred to Dr. Finch's letter below in which he makes a practical suggestion for the testing of landing and contact claims—Editor).

Bounding Basques

Sir,—In reference to the article "The Mystery of Springheel Jack" (see May-June 1961 issue), I believe that certain people of the Basque country of North-east Spain had a special way of binding or padding their feet which enabled them to spring or leap to a considerable height. When used in warfare this had a disconcerting effect on their enemy's morale. — Miss J. D. Losack, 45 Clarendon Road, Southsea, Porthsmouth, Hants.

Saucers leave clues

Sir,—In recent years it has been shown that all the rocks and minerals of the earth's mantle have a natural residual magnetism, i.e. all their molecules are aligned in a fixed direction which was determined when the molten rocks were cooling and they were buckling and convulsing to form the mountains. During this formative time, the rocks were twisted, bent and folded, but as they cooled and hardened, their molecules aligned themselves along the North-South magnetic lines of the young molten, cooling earth. Therefore, any movement later of the solid strata, after cooling, would be shown by changes in the direction of their residual magnetic poles, and over large areas of the earth this has happened in the past.

Once the rocks had cooled, their residual magnetic direction had "come to stay." Nothing would alter it except gross land movements such as earthquakes etc. However, this residual magnetic direction could also be altered by very strong magnetic fields.

Now, this would take place if a flying saucer were to approach the ground, for its powerful magnetic field, which produces visible, sensory and auditory effects would likewise change the direction of the residual magnetism in the soil and rocks beneath it. One has only therefore to take two specimens of rock from any area where landings have been described—one specimen immediately below the landing site, the second specimen about one hundred yards away, and to compare the direction of residual magnetism in the two samples before moving them.

The second specimen would show the question of true residual magnetism in the surrounding rock, whereas as if the first specimen shows a different direction for its magnetism, undoubtedly it must have been altered by a powerful magnetic field. Together with the visual evidence of a landing we would have, for the first time, definite clues left by the saucers.—Dr. B. E. Finch, London, N.W.11.

Missing Contact

Sir,—Two or three years ago, at the end of a meeting in Caxton Hall a gentleman came up to the front to tell how two girls had come across two blond-haired Scandinavian-type men one evening near a lake in Wales. The men invited them into a "flying saucer-like craft" which was standing nearby. One of the girls was hopeless at mathematics, so the men gave her a lesson. In half an hour she had become a mathematical genius. At home the villagers began to call these girls witches. Thereupon, this man, presumably some friend of theirs or of the family brought the girls to London. He was now offering something like £1,000 to to anyone who could beat her at a demonstration of remembering hundreds of numbers. He held up a photograph of this girl which I believe was taken when he was demonstrating her ability on some stage.

When the meeting was over I was engrossed in conversation with another member of the audience and it did not occur to me to approach the man until too late. He had gone. Since then I have made repeated enquiries in an attempt to trace him, but in vain. Can any reader put me in touch with this man or produce further details of the alleged encounter?—G. N. P. Stephenson, 12 Dorset Road, Cheam, Sutton, Surrey.

In our next issue . . . .

ASTRONAUTICS AND EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL CIVILIZATIONS

By PROFESSOR V. KRASOVSKIY

Professor Krasovskiy is a Doctor of Physical and Mathematical Sciences. As the Editor of *Izvestiya*, in which this article first appeared, is Kruschev's son-in-law, his views are held to be officially approved in Soviet circles.

A SAUCER CHRONOLOGY

(*Continued from page 26*)

ance of new readers, and we should much appreciate advice from readers having themselves made investigation whether any of the incidents given here are open to challenge and, also, whether we should include any others which are circumstantial and well-substantiated.

GEORGE ADAMSKI

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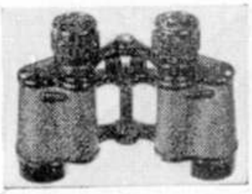

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